

## **Daniel's Prophecy for Today**



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### PROLOGUE

**A**ll of Scripture is given by Divine inspiration for our instruction and training into conformity with God's will (*II Tim. 3:16-17*); therefore, the presentation in the *Book of Daniel* is much more than a recounting of history. It is accurate history, in spite of the concept of many that it contains improbable history; but its more important purpose is to reveal the frame in which God has chosen to exercise His control in this day as He did in Daniel's, for He is the same yesterday, today, and always. The acting out of these living dramas on the stage of history was accomplished for our benefit (*I Pet. 1:12-13*), although most of the actors did not realize what was being accomplished through them for future generations.

## The Times of the Nations

### DANIEL 2

**T**his revelation of God was first given the king of Babylon as a servant of God (*Jer. 25:9*), although he was neither an Israelite, nor even a faithful servant. The dream was about things that would come to pass, about the events at the end of the ages and about the developments that would lead up to these events (*Dan. 2:28-29*). The literal period of the dream's application extends from Nebuchadnezzar's time (:38) *in continuity* through the time of Christ's Second Coming, and into His victory over the powers of the world systems, when He will establish a great Kingdom which will cover all the earth and which will never be destroyed (:44). The whole image pictures the development and consummation of the ages of man's accomplishment in building his own world into our unstable society of "clay and iron." Being outside of God's counsel, it is a society which is to be crushed into worthless "chaff" and utterly blown away (:35). When this crushing is completed, only Christians, or predominately Christians, will remain alive on earth (*Isa. 13:9, Acts 3:23*). They then become the "seed" for repopulating the nations on earth during the millennial Kingdom Age.

In the interpretation of the dream given to Daniel, the Babylonian empire was identified as the uppermost or first part (the best part) of the image, that which began the fulfillment of the time sequencing of the world empires pictured. From other portions of the *Book of Daniel* and from history, we know that the silver empire following the Babylonian rule was that of Medo-Persia (*Dan. 8:20*); then came the Grecian empire (*Dan. 8:21*). The fourth empire was that of Rome, which was contemporary with Christ's first coming, but which was to extend through its heirs (two legs) into the end of our age, and be characterized by the symbolism of iron and clay mingled. Only at the end of the age in which we live today will this fourth empire be overcome and disappear.

The fourth empire is not pictured here as going out of existence and then reappearing at some later date, neither as being succeeded by any other world empire subsequent to the days when Rome was the military master of the world around the Mediterranean. Historically and prophetically, the Roman Empire of "iron" has been extended into our time through the Holy Roman Empire and its "daughters," covering a far greater portion of the earth than formerly. True, its character of military accomplishment has in some measure been replaced by other attributes so far, but nonetheless the same fourth empire is shown as being carried on, even though we see it today in a somewhat different form.

Each of the historical four empires was said to rule over the "whole" earth. This was true in the sense that each dominated in the known world, although there were many peoples not under its direct control. Likewise at the end of our age, when the fourth

empire is again dominant in the world of today, there will be many peoples or nations not an integral part of the "iron" empire. Nevertheless, in our time all the peoples will be affected by the dominance of the "iron" empire, for the iron is mixed with the clay – mixed in with the seed of men – and the "clay" will know of the presence of the "iron," even if there is an unwillingness to capitulate or submit to the philosophy and governmental pattern of the "iron" empire.

The image sequence is concluded by picturing the feet of the "iron" empire as the consummating phase of its existence. It is still the "iron" empire, and within its dominion are pictured ten toes (rulers and nations), five on one leg and five on the other leg. As pictured by the image, the pagan Roman Empire divided about 44 B.C. Later the Holy Roman Empire also became divided, in effect extending the "iron legs" of the image as western and eastern portions, though both legs are still the same fourth empire of "iron." The area of the world under the influence of the two legs of the image was thus expanded far beyond that controlled by military Rome.

Later, through the expansion efforts of the Holy Roman Empire, the area controlled by the fourth empire of "iron" extended even farther out through Church-State alliances. It is from those portions of the world which have come under the influence and extended domination of the "iron" empire that the five rulers in nations of the western leg extension and the five rulers in nations of the eastern leg extension will soon emerge and become recognized as the ten toes. These nations are not all Christian, but at some time have been under the influence of those in the "iron empire." "10" is the number of the Gentiles, which will include both formerly nominally Christian nations and Moslem nations; for Moslem nations, too, have and will again come under the influence and *domination* of the eastern leg. (Moscow was, at one time, called the "Third Rome.")

However, the end-of-the-age manifestation of the "iron" empire will not be limited to a ten-nation confederation. In the *Book of Revelation* this same "iron" empire is described as a "sea-beast" empire in the end-time (*Rev. 13:1-3*) which basically has seven heads (rulers and nations) and also ten horns (rulers and their nations). There is also a "land-beast" empire, which is secretly subordinate to the iron or sea-beast empire and which contains, among other nations, the same seven heads and ten horns (*Rev. 13:11-12, 17:3, 11-13*). It is in the time of both the seven heads and ten horns that the power and authority of Jesus Christ (*Dan. 2:45, Mk. 12:10, 1 Pet. 2:4-6*) will fall upon all the world systems which man has developed (in an inadvertent partnership with Satan's hosts), through the agency of a consummate test of world power which other Scripture symbolically describes as the Battle of Armageddon (*Rev. 19:15-19, 16:16-17*).

The metals pictured in Nebuchadnezzar's dream can also be seen as types of the earthly and Satanic counterparts of God's symbols for His own work. Gold is a type for the workings in the spirit world and the impartations from it, and denotes spiritual as well as material wealth. Satan had this spiritual wealth from God initially when he was still in God's heaven (*Ezek. 28:13-15*), but in God's plan this gold must be refined and tested (*Rev. 3:18*) before being qualified for His continuous service. Silver indicates less spiritual wealth and pictures a need for God's work of redemption. It is a symbol of God's power to provide redemption, which the world under Satan needed after he disqualified himself from remaining in God's heaven and partaking of refined gold (*Ezek. 28:16*).

Brass indicated less spiritual wealth than silver and is used as a type for man's knowledge and philosophy of earthly things (especially that accumulated in the past century), which Satan promotes for rebellion against God. Refined brass or bronze refers to God's knowledge and wisdom (*Rev. 1:15*) which every disciple is to have through cooperation with God (*Jms. 1:4-5*). The iron typifies an emphasis upon materialism and upon the use of raw power and authority, carnal, ruthless and crushing, as was so especially evident among the God-rejecting countries of communism. But there is also a refined iron used in Scripture to symbolize God's power to rule in righteousness and love (*Rev. 2:26-27*).

Clay is more earthy than iron, more of man, and indicates the advance of human knowledge in humanism, self-attainment and the elevation of man through science, technology and learning, developed without reference to God and developed to replace Him. However, these clay attributes do not mix well with an "iron" environment of brutal power, so dictatorial rule becomes necessary to regulate those of clay as well as those of iron. But clay also represents weakness which may be presented to the Lord for His action on it, by which He transmutes it into the pattern of Himself (*Rom. 12:2, II Cor. 3:18*). In addition, we see the elements of the iron mingling with the elements of the clay. The word for mingling also bears the meaning of trade or commerce; thus we see the expansion today of trade between present and former God rejecting nations of communism and the other countries outside!

In Daniel's time, the "clay" was the seed of Abraham through Jacob's line. Subsequently, World Jewry became the "clay" in the hand of the Potter (*Isa. 64:7-8*). The Jews were scattered, but not amalgamated (*Dan. 2:43*). Then Judah's mantle fell on Christendom in the pattern of Elijah and Elisha (Elijah means "My God is Yahweh," and Elisha means "My God is Salvation," confirming the pattern). So Christians also become the latter-day clay. Neither can Christians amalgamate with Moslems, Communists and other non-Christians. Christianity is the most powerful force on earth today, yet we partake of weakness, because of the Spirit of Christ being hidden. So we see division within Christian nations. But we also see division in other nations because of the Jews in their midst (*Jer. 51:20*).

In a personal application of this prophecy, Christ (the Stone) must break down the head of gold (pride in possessions and intellect). Also to be broken is the silver of personality and culture in the arts (the ability to mix well) and the bronze of man's education (business acumen, success and the focus on the body and sex). The iron of power, science and dominance is to be broken as well. The clay is man's law which holds together. It is based on the Rock of God's Law, but is broken down to dust by man's faulty adaptation. Any or all of these can lead to complete destruction so that neither body nor name shall have its place among the sons of men, when the massive Stone strikes the image. (Worship not the image.) A true Christian is "born again," having received the pebble or baby Stone in his heart – Christ's incorruptible seed. It must tear out all the "metals and clay" so the Stone can fill the being (see *Rev. 2:17* comments on page 98).

## DANIEL 7

About 50 years after Nebuchadnezzar's world-power dream, Daniel also had a dream on the same subject but with different symbolism – that of animals instead of met-

als. Daniel's dream likewise pictured the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome with its extension through the time of Christ's Second Coming. Here Daniel is a representative of the Jewish people and the vision relates to the world empires which become rulers and oppressors of Daniel's people. He first sees the four "winds" of the heavens, or spirits (same word as wind) in the atmosphere, stirring up the great "sea" of the nations (**Rev. 17:15**) with political and social agitations (**Dan. 7:2**). Then four animal symbols rise successively out of the sea of nations (**Dan. 7:3**).

The first was like a lion (the Babylonian empire), initially – shown with two wings enabling successful service to fulfill God's purpose (eagle's wings, **Ex. 19:4, Dan. 7:3-4, Rev. 12:14**), but these supporting wings were afterward removed (**Jer. 25:9-11, 27:6-8**). Daniel saw the lion animal develop the ability to stand upright like a *man*, with a man's heart. Here is pictured the spiritual development of man and nation. The beast had a potential of ruling but with no ambition – prone and face to the ground. Then comes ambition and greed awakening animal propensities. This develops toward the qualities of an upright man with a heart for other's rights – though still a beast (unregenerate man). Not shown in this passage is the regenerated human, living for God by living fully for others. The symbol of the lion corresponds to the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Then a second animal symbol came into view, like a bear with one shoulder higher than the other (the Medo-Persian empire in which Persia was dominant). It extended its dominion out toward the west, north and south – three ribs in its mouth (**Dan. 7:5, 8:4,20**), to assimilate many peoples. The bear symbol corresponds to the shoulders and two arms of silver in **Daniel 2**. After this, Daniel saw an animal like a leopard (the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great), covered with four wings of a bird and four heads (Alexander's successors – **Dan. 7:5, 8:8,21-22**). The leopard was pictured as wing-covered, showing fruitfulness on earth (4) and providing protection and mutual support (**Ezek. 1:6,11**). One good result of Alexander's conquest was the translation of the Hebrew Bible into the Greek Septuagint, making the Word of God more available. Suddenly, Alexander died and his empire was divided among his four generals (**Dan. 8:8**). The leopard symbol corresponds to the thighs of brass or bronze in **Daniel 2**.

Finally, a different animal symbol was raised up, different from all the others, terrible, dreadful, powerful and very strong (the Roman empire and its heirs in the east and west). It had great iron teeth with which to devour, and it crushed and trampled with its feet what it did not devour. It had 10 horns (symbols of ten rulers) and Daniel saw another horn (ruler), a little one initially, come up from *among* the ten, overcoming three of them and becoming like a mortal (**Dan. 7:8**). Not being from them, but among or adjacent to them, makes it impossible for this ruler to come out of any part of the Roman Empire's holdings. The other horn is the same as the **Daniel 8** horn, coming out of the Caspian area of Russia. This little horn will come not from Roman Empire territory, but from one of the four portions of what was Alexander's empire.

His power will become great, but not by his own power (**Dan. 8:22-25**). He will honor and submit to the god of fortresses – Lucifer (**Dan. 11:37**). Though he is mortal, he will magnify himself, with Satan's power, against the Prince of the Host (Jesus Christ), take away a "daily" of some sort and cast down and profane God's sanctuary – a portion of His people, city and "holy" facilities in our time (**Dan. 8:10-11**). The symbol of the dreadful beast corresponds to the iron legs and the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image (the present-day heirs of the east and west portions of the Roman Empire). The

ten horns correspond to the ten toes on the feet of the image, five in the western portion and five in the eastern portion. The “other horn” does not have a corresponding symbol in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image, but when the other horn comes into his power, he will oppose God. He will wear down the believers in Christ, and will try to change times (probably customs) and the law (God’s operations plan for His saints), and he will be given an opportunity to work at these things during a period of 3 ½ years (*Dan. 7:24-25*).

As in *Daniel 2*, this dream given to Daniel had its initial application to the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman (plus its extension) empires which oppressed God’s people; but we also may see in this a picture of Satan’s step-by-step coming closer to losing his own empire – held in stewardship. He is *the* unseen, hidden ruler behind the successive empires in the world order. His first phase was *like* a lion, like God in many respects (*Ezek. 28:12-15, Rev. 5:5*), and with the support of eagle’s wings for successful service (*Rev. 12:14*). This prophecy in *Daniel 7:4*, also reveals he will later have a human body by taking one for his use, becoming as a mortal (*Isa. 14:16, Ezek. 28:2,9*). The next phase is symbolized as a bear which has lesser status than a lion and this phase features the devouring of much flesh (*Isa. 14:5-6, 12, 17*). Some of the power and ruling attributes of the lion phase remain however, for it is written that the devil still roams about *like* a lion. . . seeking someone to devour (*1 Pet. 5:8*). Then there is the phase of the leopard with wings, picturing the rapid movement into knowledge and philosophy independently of God (usually associated with the Grecian development in the age of its glory). The intellectual attainment is viewed as security (wings) in the four quarters of the world under Satan’s temporary stewardship (*Dan. 12:4*). Then there is the development into a phase featuring the application of brutal, ruthless power and the exercise of authority to crush and trample.

In some measure, this brutality was seen in the early Roman Empire, but in greater measure it has been seen more recently in the rule of Mussolini, Stalin and Hitler. It will be seen in even a much greater measure when Satan has established himself in a human body (the imitation of what God did in Jesus) as the “seen” ruler of a world confederation (communistic/socialism in nature) which, to an awesome degree, will affect all nations on this planet. Satan-incarnate’s power and might are based on a foundation of the materialism of man’s knowledge, built up through technical and scientific advances (feet with brass nails), and exercised in a God-rejecting philosophy of government.

In the interpretation of his vision, Daniel was then given more information about this fourth beast empire. The fourth empire is different from its predecessors, and Daniel could only describe it as dreadful. In about 96 A.D., John saw the same empire in symbolism and described it as part lion, part bear, and part leopard (*Rev. 13:1-2*), one to which Satan gives all his power. The ten rulers of the Great Tribulation period are to rise out of the geographical area and its extensions that have been under the control of the fourth beast empire, and alongside them an eleventh ruler will come up. The eleventh ruler will come later in time than the ten previous rulers, he will be different from them, and he will overcome and subdue three of the ten, though the ten continue to the end of the age. This eleventh “horn” which shall become like a mortal (*Dan. 7:8*) is Satan incarnated in the human body of a man already in ruling position. He will match himself against God and against His people during a period of 3 ½ years to wear out the saints. He will seek to change times (probably customs such as holy days and festivals), altering God’s calendar and the law (making laws to confuse the saints). In the contest,



his control will be gradually eroded away during the 3 1/2 years, and at the end of the period it will be suddenly destroyed (the outcome of the Battle of Armageddon). The period of 3 1/2 years is that which is called the Great Tribulation (**Rev. 11:2, 12:6, 13:5; Matt. 24:15,21; Dan. 12:1**). After the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will begin to establish an “everlasting” Kingdom for the saints who remain on earth. Almost no person who has not accepted Jesus will live beyond the sudden nuclear destruction (**Isa. 13:9**). It will be the saints who will possess the surviving Kingdom (**Dan. 7:18,22; Rev. 12:5**).

## The Covenants with Israel

It is generally taught that the 70th week of *Daniel 9* is separated from the other 69 by a gap of 2,000 years. Is it? Or is this a product of man's interpretation of what "should have been" in God's mind?

God chose a people in the Old Testament times to become a key to open up and show what He would do on all the earth. These people were chosen because they best fit His requirements. God wished their lives to show a pattern of His entire plan, through what He would cause to happen to them. First He chose a man, and through that man He fathered a nation. God told Abram, the man of His choosing, that his seed would be as the dust of the earth (*Gen. 13:16*). God also told Abram to look at the stars; if he could number them, so he would know that progeny or seed which would come from him (*Gen. 15:5*). Through these two promises we may understand that the seed of Abraham was to be two-fold – a physical seed or offspring and a spiritual seed, the physical seed being typified by the dust of the earth and the spiritual seed on earth by the stars of heaven. They who began as the physical seed are to be paralleled by those who become the spiritual seed.

The physical seed came first, being known as the nation of ancient Israel. Through Abraham's grandson, Jacob, who fathered the twelve patriarchs, came the heads and progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel. These twelve tribes constituted that nation of prophets and priests through whom God revealed Himself and to whom He chose to make known the detail of His plan. The complete history of the nation of Israel portrays, through living drama, the entirety of God's plan and purpose for the human race. The study of the sacred history from the time of Abram on, reveals numerous types and patterns depicting God's plan of the ages, as well as the nature of His dealings with human beings to bring them to Himself and into the stream of His divine purpose for them.

God made certain promises to the nation of Israel in the form of covenants or agreements, but since these promises were contingent upon obedience, God was in no way obligated to keep them when the nation defaulted. However, the covenant made with Abram was different. God swore by Himself that He would fulfill what He had spoken to Abram, because Abram believed God's promises and took action upon them, walking before Him with a perfect heart (*Gen. 22:16-17, Heb. 6:13-18*). Therefore, what God promised to do through Abram's offspring was not subject to change; however, since the promises were to Abram and to his seed, it was completely within God's prerogative to transfer the promises from the physical seed to the spiritual seed (*Gal. 3:7,29*).

This was demonstrated by prophetic type in Jacob's experience at the river Jabbok (*Gen. 32:22-32*), where, as he wrestled with the angel, his name changed from Jacob to Israel. Jacob's wrestling with the angel symbolizes a spiritual experience in which the

carnal gives way to the mind of the Spirit and an energizing is made available to do the will of God, a supernatural enabling to replace the “old nature” with the “new nature.” This is also signified by the name Jabbok, which means ‘outpouring.’ As in the type, God pours out His Spirit on all those who have clearly seen His provision for a walk of victory in the Spirit rather than struggling on in the flesh. The name Israel (meaning ‘prince *with* God’) then comes into operation with the transfer to a more spiritual condition.

The principle of transference to the spiritual counterpart is also pictured by the fact that Jacob (meaning ‘supplanter’) replaced or supplanted his brother Esau as the birth-right holder after Esau had “sold out” and despised his birthright. The name Esau means ‘hairy,’ indicating the earthly or carnal man, and that name was later changed to Edom (meaning ‘red’) which links him to the earth from which physical man was formed. Thus Esau becomes a type of all the unregenerate human race, even those among the descendants of Abraham. Jacob-Israel is the type of the spirit-born man, the new creature who replaces the old man of sin. These prophetic events in type are designed to emphasize the truth that the physical seed of Abraham would eventually be replaced by the spiritual seed. Jesus made this a reality when He said to those who boasted of their descent from Abraham, “The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a gathering of people who will bring forth its fruits” (*Matt. 21:43*), to a Kingdom of priests (*Rev. 1:5-6*).

The natural or physical people of Israel have been preserved through the years, not by virtue of the covenant God made with them as a nation, but simply because of the word which He gave to Abram, confirmed by His oath. The covenant made at Sinai with the twelve tribes was broken and is no longer in force. Because they broke their agreement, God scattered the people of natural Israel among the nations about 720 B.C., causing them to be cut off and absorbed into the Gentile world – with one exception. That exception was the preserved remnant of the southern Kingdom of Judah which was reestablished in the Promised Land so that there might be a people to receive the Messiah and to fulfill all the things written in the Scriptures.

It was God’s mercy and forgiveness that made possible their return from captivity to be preserved until the coming of the Messiah. The measure of this forgiveness and its prophetic equation was given to the Disciples in answer to Peter’s question concerning forgiveness (*Matt. 18:21-22*). The answer expressed the essence of what God had been willing to do, even as He requested the same of the Disciples. He would not require of man what He would not be willing to fulfill Himself. Peter asked if seven times would be sufficient in forgiving his brother and Jesus told him that it should rather be seventy times seven. The number given conveyed the idea of completeness of forgiveness, with no animosity retained within the heart, and also conveyed the idea of complete or continuous forgiveness whenever true repentance (the act of turning to righteousness) is manifested, almost without limitation as to the number of times.

But also veiled in Jesus’ answer was the declaration of God’s grace toward an errant nation, showing the extent of His mercy to that remnant which was given permission to return to the Promised Land and later to rebuild the Temple. After numerous difficulties, the returned remnant finally began the reinstituted sacrifices on a regular and continuous basis. From the time that the sacrificial rights were reinstituted until the time that the Messiah was cut off was exactly 70 times 7, or 490 years. Thus did the Lord

proclaim the extent of His grace and forgiveness after permitting the remnant to return. At the close of that 490 years, the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which provided the foundation for all grace and forgiveness, was offered once for all time. Beyond that 490 years there could be no forgiveness, except on the grounds of the perfect sacrifice of the promised Messiah, the giving of Himself as the all-sufficient expiation for the sins of the world. The continuance of the animal sacrifices by the unbelieving Jewish people beyond the stipulated time period, in complete rejection of the one all-sufficient sacrifice, constituted the abomination for which the nation and the Temple were made desolate (*Dan. 9:27*). From that time on, those who even with good intentions continued the animal sacrifices fulfilled the prophetic words of Isaiah to the effect that he who kills an ox will be guilty as if he killed a man for sacrifice; he who sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he who presents an offering, as if it were swine's blood; he who burns incense, as if he blessed an idol. They have chosen *their own* ways and their soul delights in their abominations or despicable things. They did evil before My eyes and chose that in which I do not delight (*Isa. 66:3-4*). Because of their abominations, they were broken as a people and scattered, remaining in exile and unfruitful for an entire age. But again, because of God's oath to Abraham, He has preserved a remnant of the Jews throughout this age and will yet deal with them.

The 490 year period from the reestablishment of the sacrifices to the establishment of the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ is not the only use of 70 sevens in Scripture. The 490 year period is also a pattern which the Lord chooses to use again and again. Our Lord is the same in the past, the present and the future. There was a 490 year period from the time Joseph was sold into the land of Egypt to the time the Israelites were brought out of Egypt. There was a 490 year period from the time of the rule over the Israelites by the Pharaoh who did not know Joseph to the time of the rule of their next king, Saul. There was a 490 year period from the rule of the new king, Saul, to the rule of the new line of kings over the land of Palestine, starting with Nebuchadnezzar. There was also a 490 year period from the time of dedicating Solomon's Temple to the dedication of the rebuilt Temple after the remnant returned from Babylon. Note that in each of these 490 year periods there was a continuity of time right up to the completion of the period; in none of them is found a discontinuity or a portion of the period set apart for later fulfillment. Each of the periods began with the initiation of a new thing or a change bringing about a new phase, and each extended without interruption to its end and to a beginning of a new phase of the same subject matter. We need to note this typical characteristic, because of the 490 year period appearing in the prophecy of *Daniel 9*, which must be handled according to the other paralleling patterns given in Scripture.

## **DANIEL 9**

**I**n about 538 B.C., Daniel knew it was almost God's time for completion of the 70 year exile in Babylon, because Jeremiah had prophesied the exile would extend over a period of 70 years (*Jer. 25:11-12, 29:10*). The first attack on the city of Jerusalem and the deportation of many of its inhabitants was about 606 B.C., but the Temple was not destroyed until the second siege about 586 B.C. Therefore the release of the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem was due in about 536 B.C. and the rebuilt Temple was due to be completed about 516 B.C. There was a 70 year span (with a 20-year offset) to the completion of the Temple. Daniel also knew that his people had been cast out of their

own land because they sinned against God prior to the exile period, and he knew they continued to displease Him during the exile period. As later became more evident, the people took up the patterns of the Babylonians and became comfortable there; there were but a few, a remnant, who desired to leave Babylon and return to Judah.

Because of their indifference, Daniel was moved and inspired to intercede in the behalf of his nation. There had been no repentance by the nation, no turning *from* what displeased the Lord, and no turning to what would please Him. Daniel confessed this as a representative of and as an intercessor for the nation in exile, with prayer and supplications, with fasting, and with sackcloth and ashes (*Dan. 9:3-4, I Jn. 1:9*). Although Daniel had been walking in a way pleasing to God, his prayer of specific confession and request for forgiveness included himself, because he was a member of that body of Jews which was participating in sin. This is one of the several examples in Scripture of the effectiveness of a vicarious repentance by a person living a life “sold out” to Yahweh-Jesus, but he could only repent as one member of the nation. He rightly called attention to the fact that harm is permitted to come upon those who persist in turning away from God (*I Cor. 5:1-5*). His only basis for requesting forgiveness and grace is for “Your own sake, O my Elohim, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name” (*Dan. 9:19*). Here, a very useful pattern is presented for application today (*II Tim. 3:16*).

Daniel immediately received an answer to his effective praying, even while he was still speaking (*Matt. 6:6-8*). And according to Gabriel’s revealing to Daniel, there was to be another period of 70 units connected with God’s plan for Judah, though this one was to be a 70 times 7 period (*Dan. 9:24*). In effect, Daniel was told that the “Jeremiah 70 years” would be no great problem, but that they pointed toward a greater deliverance on a higher plane. This prophetic word was to be specifically tied to God’s dealings with the Jewish people and with Jerusalem, during a period of 70 times 7, or 490 years. In *Daniel 9:24*, the words “determined or decreed” upon the people means ‘especially set aside or cut out’ for your people. The offer being made was to bring a finishing (lit. restraining) of the transgression of His people so His plan could continue to develop (*Isa. 53:5*), to seal up and make full the measure of sin (*Isa. 53:6,10*), to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin (the iniquity not covered by the Law), to bring in everlasting righteousness (the nucleus of it is the Seed of Christ – *Isa. 54:17*), and to seal up (fulfill) the vision and the prophet (what he reported), and to *anoint* a “most holy,” the Holy of Holies (Jesus Christ, also the Christian Dispensation).

In other words, this offer was intended to bring into effect a new rule in the Chosen Land so it could then become a pattern and a living exhibit of the Lord’s intent and objective for all lands. But it was to be presented as an offer (as is always God’s way) and therefore was not automatically to come into effect independently of its acceptance or rejection. The offer, as was each of the offers to the Chosen Nation, was to be conditional and provisional. Here again we see the “two sides of the coin” – the promises but also the conditions; it would be presented as a contractual agreement, but would only become a firm contract when the Chosen People, or an adequate number of them accepted the terms of the offer. This same approach is consistent with every one of the offers previously made to this Chosen Nation. The 70 weeks in *Daniel 9:24* were originally written as “70 sevens,” not 70 weeks. The 70 times 7 would be 490, which is to be translated into prophetic time (*Ezek. 4:6*), and thereby we obtain the 490 years of which Gabriel spoke. This 490 year period, following the pattern of the previous

490 year parallels, would bring the reestablishment of Jerusalem and Palestine into God's plan and a release from the hindering of Satan and his agents. Initially, these developments were to be specifically tied to God's dealings with Jerusalem and the Jewish people, the nation of Israel – no others. The period was to start at the time of a commandment (Hebrew: "a word") to restore and reestablish Jerusalem, not just the Temple in this instance. It was to extend into the coming of the Anointed One and then through seven more years of His ministry (*Dan. 9:25-27*), thus completing the 490 year period. The decree or "word" was to bring about the building of Jerusalem with walls (Hebrew: ramparts) which provide protection, such a wall and moat, and streets (Hebrew: broad wide place) or square, in troublous times.

According to our records, these are the commandments and letters that were issued:

**CYRUS**, about 536 B.C. (*II Chron. 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-2*). A proclamation (Hebrew: a voice to go out over), and also writing, to rebuild the Temple.

**THE LORD** to Haggai, about 520 B.C. (*Hag. 1*). A prophetic command to resume building the *Temple*.

**XERXES I** to Esther, about 473 B.C. (*Esther 8:10*). A written letter and command (a word) effecting deliverance for the Jews from Haman's intentions.

**ARTAXERXES** to Ezra, about 460 B.C. (*Ezra 7:13*). An enabling for the second expedition to Jerusalem. It is said this was a written decree (Hebrew: discretion, taste) stating that all Israel *may* go, giving permission to exercise free will. Not all did go.

**ARTAXERXES** to Nehemiah, about 445 B.C. (*Neh. 2:8*). Letters to provide beams for the *gates* of the fortress (in the wall) and material for the city's wall and for the house Nehemiah would enter or occupy. The builders had to work on the walls and gates with sword in hand (*Neh. 4:18*), for the building was done in troublous times. Which is the commandment prophesied in *Daniel 9:25*?

The time to the Anointed One was 7 sevens plus 62 sevens, which total 483 years, but first we must explore the kind of year which is used by the Lord in this prophecy. The year we use today is the earth's orbit around the sun in 365 ¼ days, but is that the same as God's year or that orbit time in effect before sin affected and infected our planet? There have always been 12 months, that number is one of God's numbers. But *Revelation 11:2* and *Revelation 13:5* speak of 42 months, a period in which *Revelation 11:3* and *Revelation 12:6* tell us there are precisely 1,260 days. In *Revelation 12:14* and *Daniel 7:25*, this period of 42 months or 1,260 days is a period of 3 ½ years. The numbering of 1,260 days and also 42 months in 3 ½ years is particularly interesting, since within every three year period of the Hebrew calendar there is an extra month added to adjust the pattern of the months to the equator's declination relative to the sun. This is to keep the same months in the same seasons of every year. There is also reference to a period of five months containing 150 days in *Genesis 7:11,24* and *8:3-4*, but this alone shows no special difference from the Hebrew calendar. However, these examples do indicate an even 360 days within what could be termed the sin-free orbit around the sun, and in many comparisons of Bible prophecy with archeological findings, the 360 day-year appears to be the one used by the Lord in His plans.

If we are reading this rightly as indicating a very slight shift in earth's orbit when rebellion entered, because all of this portion of God's creation was affected (*Rom. 8:19-*

22), the 7 sevens plus 62 sevens (483) years of the 360 day variety, concluding with the appearance of the Anointed One, would be 476 of our 365  $\frac{1}{4}$  day years. If Jesus Christ was born in about 1 A.D., as much evidence now seems to indicate, He was anointed for the beginning of His ministry near the end of 31 A.D. (**Lk. 3:21-23**). The date 476 years prior to His anointing would reach back to 445 B.C., which would be the date of the “word” or decree of **Daniel 9:25**, if there is no error in the observations. Historians have fixed the date on which the letters were given to Nehemiah by Artaxerxes as 445 B.C.; however, let it be noted that historical dates back to 1,500 B.C. are subject to a possible error of as much as 10 years.

After the 7 sevens plus 62 sevens of years, the Anointed One was to be cut off and have nothing to Him, having given up everything (including His close relationship with His Father) on the Cross. This timing was fulfilled early in 35 A.D., 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years after the anointing. Also after the 7 sevens plus 62 sevens of years, a people following another leader who will come, will destroy the city and the sanctuary (**Jn. 14:30**). This portion of the prophecy foresaw the Anointed one being rejected and cut off (Jesus was also the “Temple”), and the outcome of the rejection – once it had been confirmed beyond recall – would afterwards result in the destruction of the City and the Sanctuary. The fulfillment of His being cut off came into effect with the *nation* of Israel rejecting the person of Jesus Christ and His being crucified, but the nation’s opportunity to accept Him was continued through His Apostles and Disciples until about the time of Stephen’s death. Beyond that time, late in 38 A.D., there was no longer any offering of that ministry to the nation through its leaders, but only to willing individuals in the nation (**Acts 8:1**). The opportunity presented to those individuals in natural Israel continued during a total of 40 years (a significant number in Scripture) from the beginning of Christ’s ministry to its termination in 70 A.D., when the non-Christian army of pagan Rome surrounded Jerusalem, took and burned it *on the Passover*, including the Temple, killed tens of thousands and deported about 100,000 of its citizens (**Lk. 21:20-24**).

The initial fulfillment was for Israel. The final fulfillment is yet to take place for the nations of spiritual Israel. It will be associated with another surrounding and subsequent desolation of Jerusalem and Palestine by the armies of the anti-Christ, Satan incarnated in the human body of the ruler of the dreadful beast’s worldwide empire now developing – a ruler who shall come. That latter desolation shall come with a flood of evil (harm) from Satan, the serpent (**Rev. 12:15**), and from that time to the end of the age will be continuous war and desolation for all the nations on earth (**Lk. 21:22, Rev. 12:17, Matt. 24:22, Neh. 1:5-8**). Obviously, the prophetic period of 70 sevens or 490 years for natural Israel and Jerusalem (483 years of the 360 day variety) would have terminated just before 38 A.D., which is consistent with the time when the New Testament or New Covenant ministry became no longer available to the *nation* of Israel through its leaders.

Now let us take a careful look at **Daniel 9:27** solely on the basis of what we can discover in Scripture, for this verse is widely interpreted out of context. The first application of the prophecy is to the people of the Jewish *nation* and to Jerusalem (:24), though the final application includes spiritual Israel (the Kingdom on earth) and its “Jerusalem” (typing Christendom) by inescapable inference. The primary subject in the prophecy is the work and person of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ (:24-26), although a single reference is made to the people of another leader (:26). In *verse 27*, the prophecy continues, stating that He, the Messiah of *verse 26*, shall *confirm* (Hebrew: strengthen)



a covenant or testament or agreement with many for one seven (seven years) – with the Jewish people (:24). Whatever covenant this was to be, was one which must already have been in existence with the Jewish people, for it was one which was to be *strengthened*. From the record of our New Testament, we know that Jesus, beginning with His Baptism by the Holy Spirit at the river Jordan (**Matt. 3:16**) and the anointing by His Father (**Lk. 4:18; Jn. 17:3; 6:46,62; 3:13**), presented a strengthened Covenant entirely consistent with earlier covenants to that nation, which the nation was free to accept or reject.

The 69 “weeks” reached to the anointing, so the Messiah’s ministry began at the initiation of the 70th “week.” But the prophecy of *verse 27* places a time limit on the offer of the strengthened Covenant to the Jewish nation, terminating seven years beyond its initial offering. All of God’s previous covenants offered to this nation were contingent upon cooperation and all were defaulted by the nation’s lack of response; yet the nation had been preserved, because of God’s unconditional promise to Abram confirmed by His oath (**Heb. 6:13-18**). Therefore, it was necessary that God again offer the nation an opportunity for accepting Yahweh-Jesus as its Messiah and for establishing His rule or Kingdom. Jeremiah was given prophecy on this necessity to the effect that, although old covenants had been broken by Israel, a New Covenant would be offered precisely like that of the New Testament ministry, and would be offered first to the Jewish action – which was fulfilled during a period of seven years (**Jer. 31:27-34, Heb. 8:6-13**). This New Covenant was to result in a substantially strengthened relationship between the Jewish nation and God, *if* it was accepted; it was to terminate as did its predecessors, *if* it was not accepted (**Zech. 11:10-14**). The Messiah was to be cut off in death *after* the 69 “weeks,” placing the crucifixion sometime during the 70th “week” (after the 70th week had been well started), making it impossible for the 70th “week” to be separated from the 69 “weeks” and placed at the end of the age.

See the bankruptcy of man’s theology and interpretation. The first fulfillment of the 70th “week” has taken place, but *it does not preclude some kind of parallel fulfillment in our time*. In the early part of His ministry, Jesus Himself acted out the seven year pattern during the Festival of Tabernacles, especially for the benefit of the leaders of the nation who claimed to know the Scriptures so thoroughly (**II Tim. 3:16**). He presented the New Covenant and He warned them to accept it, or it would be withdrawn (**Jn. 7:1,10,11,14,33,34,37**). The Festival of Tabernacles celebrated the beginning of a new period, the civil new year, and this was so appropriate for the parable drama being presented. While present at the week-long Festival, He pictured His own ministry. During the first 3 ½ days He worked among them almost incognito and veiled from the sight of most of the people. He was there for those who would search Him out (**Isa. 42:1-9, Jer. 29:13**), but it was as if He was not among the others. At mid-week He placed Himself boldly before them, rulers and all, and on the concluding day He completed the drama by a strong invitation to come to Him – the final invitation during the seven days (**Isa. 42:4**). A similar drama will again play out in our generation.

At another time, Jesus also pictured the limited time for the offer of His strengthened Covenant in the parable of the vineyard fig tree (a symbol of the nation of Israel) in which the owner of the fig tree had been looking for fruit from it for three years (**Lk. 13:6-9**). The tree deserved cutting down, but the vine dresser persuaded the owner to allow him to dig around it and fertilize it another season to see if subsequently it would bear fruit. If it did not bear fruit *after* the additional attention, then the fig tree would be



cut down and taken out (*Matt. 21:43*). After His resurrection, when the Disciples asked Jesus if this was now the time at which He would reestablish the Kingdom and restore it to Israel (*Acts 1:6-8*), Jesus would not and could not give a direct answer, because the offer to the Jewish nation had not yet expired; it had 3 ½ years yet to run before the nation finally rejected Him. Neither was it important or timely for them to know, in 35 A.D.

Jesus Himself was given to be that stronger Covenant to the people of Israel and through them to be a Light to the nations, but before the new things spring forth God tells of them (*Isa. 42:6-3*). Jesus was foretold to be the Messenger or Angel of the Covenant who was to suddenly come to His Temple (*Mal. 3:1*). Jesus Christ is the mediator of a new agreement (*Heb. 9:14-15*), and He came with the intention of carrying out His Holy Covenant which He sealed by oath to Abraham (*Lk. 1:72-73*). He ministered the truth of God to the Jews, to *confirm* and add to the promises made to the fathers (*Rom. 15:8*).

Jesus did away with the old order under a defaulted covenant, which involved symbolic sacrifices and offerings, so that He might inaugurate the new and establish the second order in which He Himself became the once-for-all sacrifice for atonement and for righteousness (*II Cor. 3:14, Heb. 10:6-10*). Gabriel prophesied that He would cause the sacrifice and the offering necessary for approaching God to cease (*Dan. 9:27*), which Jesus Christ did by the sacrifice of His own life at the midpoint of the final seven of the 70 sevens. He completed and fulfilled the meaning of all Old Testament symbolic sacrifices and washings, which pointed forward to Him and His enabling sacrifice to fill up their prophetic picture. He brought the reality into being in place of the acted out dramas in parable previews. Although Jesus knew the nation would reject Him and His astounding ministry, He did not once withdraw the confirming of this strengthened Covenant with the many of the Jewish nation during the whole seven year period. If no one else is faithful, God remains faithful and true, never reneging on His promises (*Rom. 3:3-4*).

Even after the Crucifixion, He continued to present the firm offer to the rulers of the nation by His Holy Spirit through the Apostles and Disciples – up to the murder of Stephen in 38 A.D. That brought the 490 year prophetic period to a close for Jerusalem and for the Jewish nation. After His resurrection, Jesus instructed the Apostles and Disciples to continue to present His strengthened Covenant to Jerusalem and Israel, beginning with the requirement of deep repentance so that all of sin could be forgiven and erased (*Lk. 24:45-47*). Subsequently and until the time of Stephen's death, the Jewish nation and its leaders heard the offer being proclaimed, but on that day a great and severe persecution broke out against the Church in Jerusalem which effectively scattered that group, forcing it out of contact with the government of the Jewish nation. The Apostles remained in Jerusalem to work with and encourage interested individuals in the region, but the period in which the nation as a nation could enter into the strengthened Contract offer had expired (*Acts 7:57-60, 8:1*).

To help in weighing and establishing the validity of the foregoing clarification of these *Daniel 9* verses, let us quickly review their focus. The primary subject of *9:24* is the work of Jesus Christ; that of *verse 25* is the person of Jesus Christ; and that of *verse 26* is the crucifixion death of Jesus Christ after His anointing for ministry. *Verse 27* gives a bold declaration of the vicarious atonement which would be accomplished by

the promised Messiah. "In the midst or middle of the 70th week, He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation (of the Mosaic ordinance) to cease." Carefully note in *verses 26-27*, "the people of the prince" refers to many, but the "he" of *verse 27* is singular, so the "he" *has* to refer to the "Anointed One" of *verse 26*. There was no further need for the animal sacrifices of the Law to continue after Jesus had appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself and was once offered to bear the sins of many (*Heb. 9:26, 28*).

The Messiah was to be cut off, but not for Himself; His atonement was for others. Its placement in time was at the middle of the final or 70th "week." Since 70 full "weeks" were set aside for the people (:24), the Jews had only 3 1/2 years after the crucifixion of Christ in which to repent and accept their Messiah, or once again be subject to the judgment of God and eventually suffer again being cast out of the Promised Land. Through the preaching of the Apostles, the Jews were clearly given an opportunity for *national* repentance, even though they had crucified their Messiah (*Acts 3:12-26*). Such repentance would have brought refreshing from the presence of the Lord and restitution to the nation (*II Chron. 7:14*). However, there was complete rejection of the Apostles' testimony by the Jewish rulers and elders. Stephen, under the power of the Holy Spirit, declared them to be stubborn and uncircumcised (unrighteous) and always resisting the Holy Spirit (*Acts 7:51*).

The rejection of the Messiah by the Jews and their subsequent continuance of the animal sacrifices were an abomination in the sight of God, for which desolation was determined upon their land. Because of the overspreading (literally, extensions) of abominations, He (the Messiah) shall make desolate (the City and Sanctuary of *verse 26*), even until the full determined end shall be poured upon the desolate (land). It became impossible for God to "delight" in the continuance of animal sacrifices, once their function had been terminated by Christ's perfect sacrifice of Himself. Therefore, when the Jews continued them in rejection of Christ's sacrifice, they became that abomination in the sight of God of which Isaiah prophesied (*Isa. 65:1-7, 66:1-4*).

The 70 "weeks" allotted to the Jews were to run consecutively, without the final or 70th "week" being separated from the 69 and relegated exclusively to a future time. Daniel was shown that the allotted 70 "weeks" would see the fulfillment of certain things through the ministry of the promised Anointed One (*Dan. 9:24*). In that ministry *during* the 70th "week," six things were to take place:

1. To finish or fill up the transgression, i.e., expressed evil thoughts and emotions, etc. (literally, restrain transgression of the Law). This Jesus did, but the Jews filled up the transgression by crucifying Jesus and also by killing those He sent (*Matt. 23:32-36*).
2. To make an end of sins not covered specifically by the Law, i.e., unexpressed evil thoughts and emotions, uncleanness, etc. Jesus made an end of sins in dying on the Cross (*Heb. 9:26*).
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity, i.e., perversions of truth in word and deed, willful wrongs, stubborn wrong. This was fulfilled by Jesus in reconciling the whole world to Himself (*II Cor. 5:19*).
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus brought into being a reservoir of everlasting righteousness – each of His glorified seeds is a nucleus of His utter righteousness (*Rom. 3:21-22, II Cor. 5:21, I Pet. 1:23*).

5. To seal up the vision and prophecy. To “seal up” means to finish or fulfill or fill up, and Jesus did so fulfill (*Acts 3:18, Lk. 16:16*).

6. To anoint the Most Holy; after His baptism in the Jordan, the Most Holy (Jesus) was anointed (*Jn. 1:32, Matt. 3:16, Lk. 3:22, 4:18-22*).

All these things took place *during* the 70th “week.”

It would have been strange, most strange, if this prophecy given to Daniel did not refer to the wonderful and exceedingly merciful New Covenant which Jesus would offer and make available for possession to Daniel’s people during a seven year period. It would have been especially strange since so much of the Old Testament brings a focus on this specific objective of God in His Chosen People – for the Jewish people first, if they would, and then for the nations. Additionally, there is no paralleling precedent in other Scriptures to indicate a break in this particular 490 year period and a deferment of the 70th seven for 2,000 years, until the end of the Church Age. Nor do we dare propagate this teaching without a confirming word in Scripture, for every word of truth must be established by two or three testimonies or patterns in the Word of God (*Jn. 8:17, II Cor. 13:1*).

Thus, we can understand that the 490 years of God’s extended grace to the Jews found its consummation in the ministry of the promised Messiah and those whom He commissioned and sent out (*Jn. 20:21*). Jesus was anointed for His ministry of 3 ½ years at the beginning of the 70th and final “week” of seven years. The middle of that “week” saw the rejection of His personal ministry by the Jews. It is inconceivable that there would be a more embracing or more pointed abomination than that God’s chosen nation, which He had continually blessed and disciplined in great patience and which He protected even through hateful rebellions, should absolutely refuse to accept the strengthened Covenant He offered – a covenant to enable the people of that nation to overcome all evil so they could become an example to show the way to the world. Instead they utterly rejected their Creator, and made Him a cursed sacrifice (*Deut. 21:23*). Even after He became the once-for-all sacrifice and propitiation for all the world, that nation completely ignored the great Gift of God, fought against Him and His followers, and smugly continued to offer animal sacrifices – ostensibly to the same God Whom they blasphemed.

The end of the “week” concluded with the Jews rejecting the witness of the Holy Spirit’s testimony. Although the destruction and desolation of the nation did not come until 70 A.D., the end of their probation period of 490 years had come, and the age-long judgment was certain. In 70 A.D., the *people* of the prince (the Roman armies) came and destroyed the city and the sanctuary (the Temple). The end was to come by being cut off by desolations (*Lk. 21:20-21*). In its preliminary application, the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place (Palestine) was the presence of the Roman armies in siege against Jerusalem (*Matt. 24:15-16*). Upon the extension of abominations (despicable things) shall be desolation, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolated land (*Dan. 9:27*).

A great deal of other prophecy in Old and New Testaments tells in some detail that Satan, the desolator (*Isa. 14:6,17*), and his active and passive followers will in turn see destruction poured out upon themselves (*Ezek. 28:7-9, Isa. 13:9, Rev. 19:19-21*). When the great abomination of continued symbolic sacrifice became fact, a succession of

developments under the guidance of Satan swiftly began to envelop the Jewish nation, and then spread from that center to all nations (**Lk. 18:8, Rev. 12:9**). The one who makes desolate immediately came in to fill the vacuum left by the rejection of Christ, and that desolator is to stay until a full, determined end is also poured out on him.

By their unrelenting rejection of the Messiah, the Jewish nation placed itself in default and has thus received no replacement covenant or testament with the Lord to this date. The Jews then ceased to be a nation and even now, as a nation again, they have no national covenant with the Lord – just as none of the other “faiths” have any established relationship with God. But the natural sons of Abraham do have the unconditional promises given him in the Old Testament and repeated as the sure mercies to David (**II Sam. 7:8-16, Ps. 89:20-37**). Therefore, God will yet reinstate His contract offer, when the Jewish nation, the remnant that is then left, qualifies by specifically asking Jesus Christ to function as its Messiah (**Matt. 23:38-39**). This will come after almost 2,000 years of there being no contract with the people pictured as Abraham’s seed which is as the dust of the earth (**Gen. 13:16**).

Although many words have been written here to show the continuity in fulfillment of the entire 70 “weeks” of Daniel, most Scriptures have more than one application and fulfillment. In about 445 B.C. Daniel’s people heard a call to come out of Babylon and return to Jerusalem (the dwelling place of peace). A few responded – it was far from all. In this instance also, we may see an additional application and fulfillment during the final seven years of the present dispensation, but quite differently than the way Bible fundamentalists see it. In the first fulfillment, it was an act of God that caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease. Through the death of Jesus and His resurrection (His once-for-all-time sacrifice), all that was caused to cease. That was in the middle of the final “week” of seven years. If we are to see a fulfillment in the same *pattern* during the final seven years of the present dispensation, there should be an act of God in the middle of that final “week” which would signal right then the completion of a *spiritual* sacrifice and offering, and which would elevate those involved in that sacrifice, even as Jesus was elevated or glorified following the completion of His sacrifice.

The Psalmist gives us insight. “**Gather My saints to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice**” (**Ps. 50:1-5**). A Firstfruits to God and to the Lamb are now laying all upon the Altar as a living sacrifice (**Rom. 12:1**), following the Lamb wherever He goes – cooperating in carrying out His thoughts and His plan (**Rev. 14:4**). After their being called up higher, through translation and glorification just before the final 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation, then it can be truly said that their sacrifice and offering to God will have ceased. They will then begin their service to the Lord on the higher plane of glorified life. When Jesus completed His earthly sacrifice and came forth from the grave to glorified life in the middle of Daniel’s 70th “week,” in the initial application, He was the Firstfruit of them that slept (**I Cor. 15:20**). Similarly, when the anointed 144,000 group is translated and glorified while living, in the middle of the pattern of the 70th “week” in its end-time final application, they will be the Firstfruits of the living (**I Cor. 15:23**). There is thus no conflict in perceiving that many prophetic Scriptures have more than one application and fulfillment.

There is still another sense in which sacrifice and offering will cease after the Firstfruits are translated. We read in **Acts 17:30** that God overlooks times of ignorance. Peter, speaking to the Jews in the Temple, suggests, rightly or wrongly, that it was

through ignorance of the common people that they crucified their Messiah (*Acts 3:15-17*). But after His resurrection, when there was incontrovertible evidence that He was alive and had triumphed over the grave, there was no further excuse for a claim of ignorance – and they were commanded to repent (*Acts 3:19-21*). It shall be much the same in the day when the Firstfruits are elevated in translation. The world will have been given concrete evidence of the truth of the Bible and of a living Christ. Ignorance, because of the apostasy of the church systems, will be utterly inexcusable – even if it might have been excusable before (*Rom. 1:19-20*). The Firstfruits translation will be God's signal to the church systems that their dead denominational and sectarian ways, as well as their man-made doctrines and traditions, are to Him as the "extension of abominations" for which judgment must come (*Dan. 9:27, I Pet. 4:17*). That which, in their ignorance and blindness, they thought was acceptable as a "sacrifice and offering" must cease. With the manifestation of the glorified Sons of God and the mighty outpouring of His Spirit which will shortly follow, the New Era will begin – an era of physical immortality on earth. Spiritual refreshing and restitution will come to all who will repent and humble themselves before the Lord, refusing to perpetuate previous church concepts and ways (*Acts 3:19-21*). Similarly, as the Jews had but 3 ½ years remaining after the death and glorification of Jesus to accept Him as their promised Messiah and King, so will the world have just 3 ½ years after the glorification of the Firstfruits to turn to the Lord Jesus as Savior *and* get ready for the returning King. Thank God, eyes are now beginning to be opened and some are beginning to enter into the new thing He is doing. As with Lazarus, the Lord is taking away the "napkin of blindness" which has been around our eyes, and we are being loosed from the "grave clothes" of our old ways of thinking and traditions (*Jn. 11:43-45*).

God's program of development was not stopped because of the refusal of the first Chosen People to participate in it. Because the Jewish nation would not prepare for bringing all nations into the strengthened Covenant, our Lord started a new thing specifically among individuals of the other nations willing to become spiritual sons of Abraham. God did not leave Himself without a witness in the world, neither can His purposes be frustrated. When there was contract default by the preserved remnant of Abraham's physical seed during the ministry of Jesus the Messiah, He brought His replacement factor into operation.

The Kingdom mantle was lifted from the Jews as a nation and given to the spiritual heirs of promise, fulfilling the declaration made by Jesus (*Matt. 21:42-45*). Then in accord with many prophecies, the Gentiles received the Gospel witness and began to bring forth fruit, while the national Jewish fig tree remnant remained cursed and unfruitful (*Mk. 11:12-14, 20-21*). Throughout our present age, the Gentiles are having their opportunity, because the promises to Abraham's seed after the flesh have been transferred to Abraham's seed according to the Spirit. A new Israel is functioning in the dynamic of Abraham's faith (*Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:13-14, 29*), natural Israel having been temporarily shunted into the background until the close of the age, when once again that nation shall become prominent in God's work (*Matt. 23:37-39*).

Israel after the flesh consisted of twelve tribes, each of which had an inheritance in the Promised Land. The Levites made up a thirteenth tribe, having no inheritance in the land, but receiving a special place as God's servants among all the people. Joseph, the birthright holder, had a double inheritance through his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. After the reign of Solomon, the Kingdom was divided. Ten tribes followed Jereboam;

two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, remained loyal to Rehoboam, Solomon's son. Because of the defection of Jeroboam and because of the ten tribes taking on idolatry, the Levites migrated to Judah so that they might continue to minister as the custodians of the Law and the Temple. Remnants of most of the other tribes also migrated to the southern Kingdom of Judah so that they might remain true to the God of their fathers. Thus the spiritual elements were siphoned off from the ten tribes, making their plunge into apostasy even more rapid. Only the voices of certain prophets, raised up at times, momentarily stemmed the tide into complete idolatry.

Ten is the number of the Gentiles who stem from Noah, the 10th from Adam. By type and by historical pattern, the ten northern tribes became symbolic of Gentile Christendom which progressively also has become steeped in idolatry. In the spirit of prophecy, Isaiah spoke of the territory around the sea of Galilee as "Galilee of the nations" (*Isa. 9:1*). After the deportation of the ten tribes into the land of Assyria, their territory became occupied by Gentile peoples and was never fully Israel territory again. Even after a later migration of many from the southern Kingdom of Judah (known as the Jews) to the northern area, it has never been free of Gentile influence and domination, except for the interlude beginning in 1948. Furthermore, after the ten tribes were deported to Assyria, they were eventually absorbed into the Gentile world and lost to history, as far as any separate identity is concerned. Restoration became impossible when Yahweh cast them off and gave them a bill of divorce (*Jer. 3:6-8*).

Since His own Law declared that a man could not remarry a woman whom he had divorced, it became impossible for Yahweh to receive them back into covenant relationship (*Deut. 24:1-4*). Not until the crucifixion of the man Jesus Christ could the conditions of banishment be reversed and reconciliation made possible through His death to the old and resurrection to the new (*Rom. 7:1-4*). The prophet Hosea testified to that. ***"Instead of its being said to them, You are not My people, it shall be said to them, You are the children of the living God"*** (*Hos. 1:10-11*). This was a prophetic declaration that many of the descendants of the ten tribes, having lost their identity and living in the Gentile world, would receive the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ and would become the children of God through Him (*Jn. 1:12*), also becoming a part of the "new Israel" of the Spirit.

The history of the southern Kingdom of Judah was entirely different. Judah was not divorced and cut off, even though taken into captivity. A remnant was permitted to return in preparation for the Messiah. However, after Judah's rejection of the Messiah and their blatant denial of His vicarious atonement by continuing to sacrifice animals to God, they, too, were divorced and cut off, their land made desolate and they were scattered among the nations. Nevertheless, they were not absorbed into the Gentiles as were the northern tribes, but have retained their distinctive identity down through the years. For this reason, those of Judah are the only identifiable portion of the physical seed of Abraham and, even though there has been much intermarriage with other peoples among them, the Lord has promised to cleanse their blood (*Joel 3:20-21*).

When Judah turned down the strengthened Contract offered by Jesus Christ, He transferred the tendered contract terms to a people among the nations who would choose to become "replacement Israel." He did this so a Body of Christ could become fully prepared to enter into possession of all the terms of the strengthened Covenant. That Body would become the exemplary display of the truth of those provisions, thereby



demonstrating to others how they, too, can take up the strengthened Covenant and move into the experiential possession of all that it offers. How much easier it will be for many to see clearly and begin fully to trust Jesus Christ in *all* He has already proclaimed, when it is visibly demonstrated at the blowing of the seventh Trumpet that even a few human “earthen vessels” have truly entered into a living of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. How encouraging it will be to know others have fully overcome all sins and everything the spiritual principalities and powers can bring against them (**Eph. 6:12**), actually shutting off the wages of sin – even death in the physical body (**Matt. 16:28; Jn. 6:50,58, 8:51, 11:26; Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:51**). God’s program continues as planned, but with the people of other nations “grafted” into it (**Rom. 11:13-29**). It will be through the ministry of a faithful few that a true portion of the Church will become the Glorious Church during the Great Tribulation period. Then many of the natural sons of Abraham and many more sons from the nations will finally be joined to Jesus Christ in the strengthened Covenant.

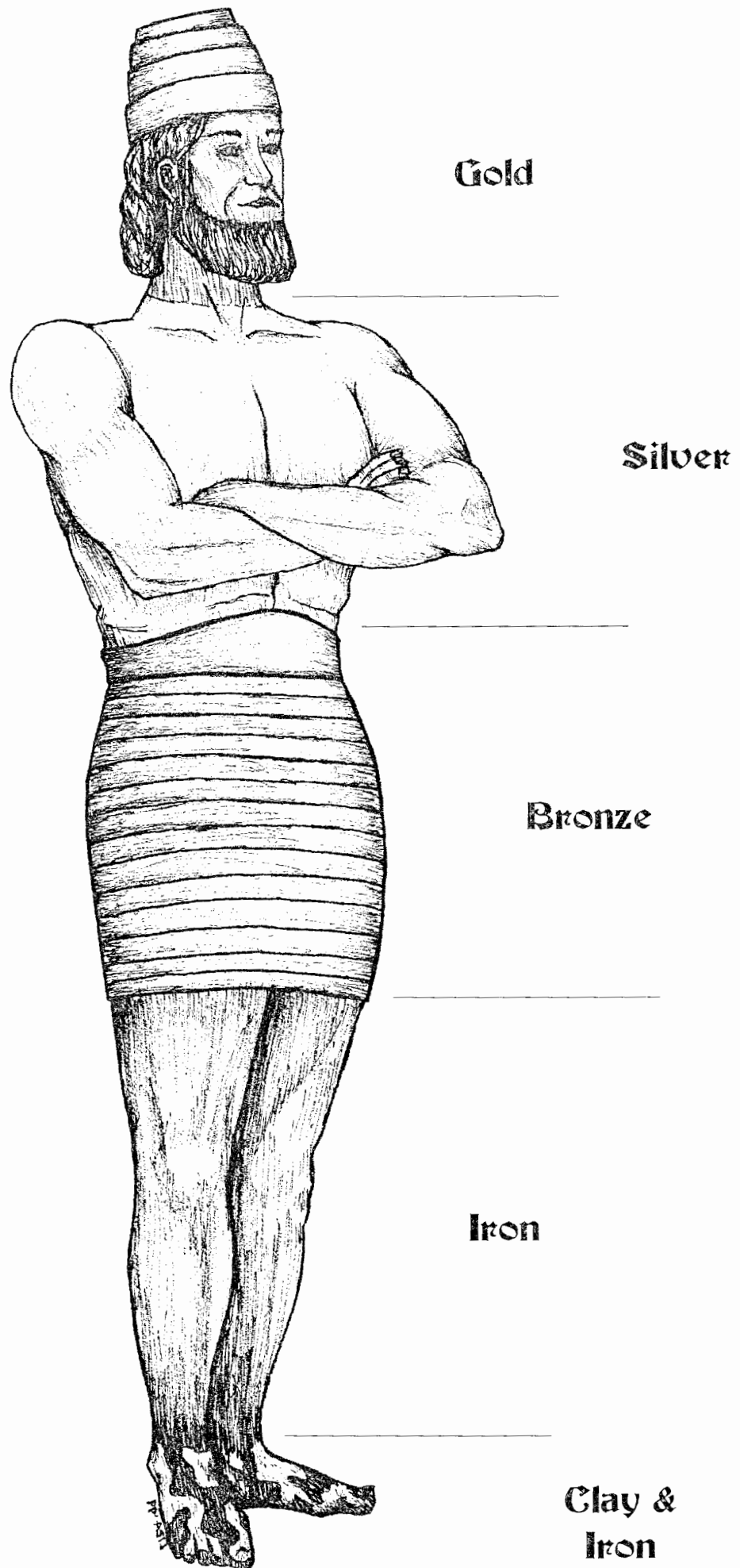
God does not play favorites (**Rom. 2:11**). During the past almost 2,000 years vacated by natural Israel, He has made a period of training and preparation available to those of all nations who will choose to become the spiritual sons of Abraham (**Gal. 3:7**), whether of Gentile or Jewish origin. As a result of the Jewish nation’s refusal to enter the provisions of His contract offer, the “Israel” now recognized by our Lord has expanded far beyond the physical boundaries of Palestine, even as was prophetically pictured in the Old Testament by the dispersion of the ten northern tribes of Israel among all nations. God has also provided almost 2,000 years of exposure to training and preparation to the Christian community. Again, the 2,000 years of training were for bringing this spiritual Israel to the level at which it could be presented with the opportunity for fulfilling the strengthened Covenant. Again, it would finish and put an end to transgression, seal up and make full the measure of sin, bring in everlasting righteousness in the millennial Kingdom, complete and fulfill the vision and the Prophet’s disclosure, and anoint a most holy company on earth (**Dan. 9:24**). Refusal of the first offer to the Chosen People brought the same offer to the many peoples of all nations.

The same pattern Jesus employed with the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin is also to be employed with the expanded spiritual Israel. As there were about 2,000 years of training in natural Israel from the time of its father to prepare for the first coming of Jesus Christ, so there have been another almost 2,000 years of training available for spiritual Israel to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. As there was then a voice ministry of John the Baptist for preparing the way (a people) for the First Coming, through repentance, so there is now a voice ministry going out to call for repentance in a people before His Second Coming. Just as Jesus then brought an offer of a strengthened Covenant, beginning with a *personal* ministry to His first Chosen People of natural Israel and extending through a period of 3 ½ years, so will He yet fulfill the same pattern for spiritual Israel in a second 3 ½ year period of *personal* ministry through the Manifested Sons (**Rom. 8:18-24**). They will then be functioning in His express image to fully and accurately reflect Him during the 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation now soon to break upon a rebellious world (**Rev. 11:3**). The sons will perform the same function as *the* Son. However, unlike the earlier rejection by natural Israel of Jesus Christ and His strengthened Covenant, in this time there will be a prepared and matured portion of the Body of Christ ready to take up the strengthened Contract as the understanding of it is opened up the second time. In our time, the

victory over sin and Satan and death will be proclaimed and demonstrated by many, as it was almost 2,000 years ago by One. In this end-time of the age, there will not be the blanket refusal of the Covenant offered to spiritual Israel, but there will be a terminating date on which the offering period will expire for those who continue in rebellion.



**Illustration/Explanations  
of  
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**



## Daniel 2

### Gold

*(The dates given are approximate.)*

Egypt's oppression – 1600 B.C.

Assyria – deportation – 700 B.C.

Babylon rule of Judah – 606 B.C.

GOLD: wealth, spiritual wealth. Also the work and impartation of the spirit world. Refined gold is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Fall of Jerusalem – 586 B.C.

Daniel – 605-534 B.C.

Jeremiah – 600 B.C.

### Silver

Medo-Persian rule – 538 B.C.

SILVER: less material wealth, soul qualities. Also the need for the work of redemption. Nehemiah – 450 B.C.

### Bronze

Grecian conquest – 333 B.C.

Empire divided – 328 B.C.

BRONZE: less material wealth, knowledge of earthly things. Also learning and philosophy of man. When refined, it is spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

### Iron

Rome conquers Israel – 64 B.C.

Pagan Roman Empire split – 44 B.C.

IRON: more earthy, emphasis on materialism. Also authority and raw power, carnal, ruthless, crushing – as in the God-rejecting countries of communism. Refined, it is God's power in His prepared Sons.

Christ's birth – 1 A.D.

Christ's personal ministry – 31-35 A.D.

His ministry continued to the rulers of the Jews by the Apostles into 38 A.D.

Then Stephan's death concluded the 7 year contract.

Pagan Roman Empire broken – 313 A.D.

Revived as "Christian" Rome – 313-500 A.D. in an amalgamation of pagan ritual and peoples. The Holy Roman Empire influence spreads far beyond the empire boundaries (just as "spiritual Israel" has done). As a result, Christendom included Russia. The USSR remains an heir to the heritage of the "Iron" empire and beast, even though its form has changed from that of Christendom.

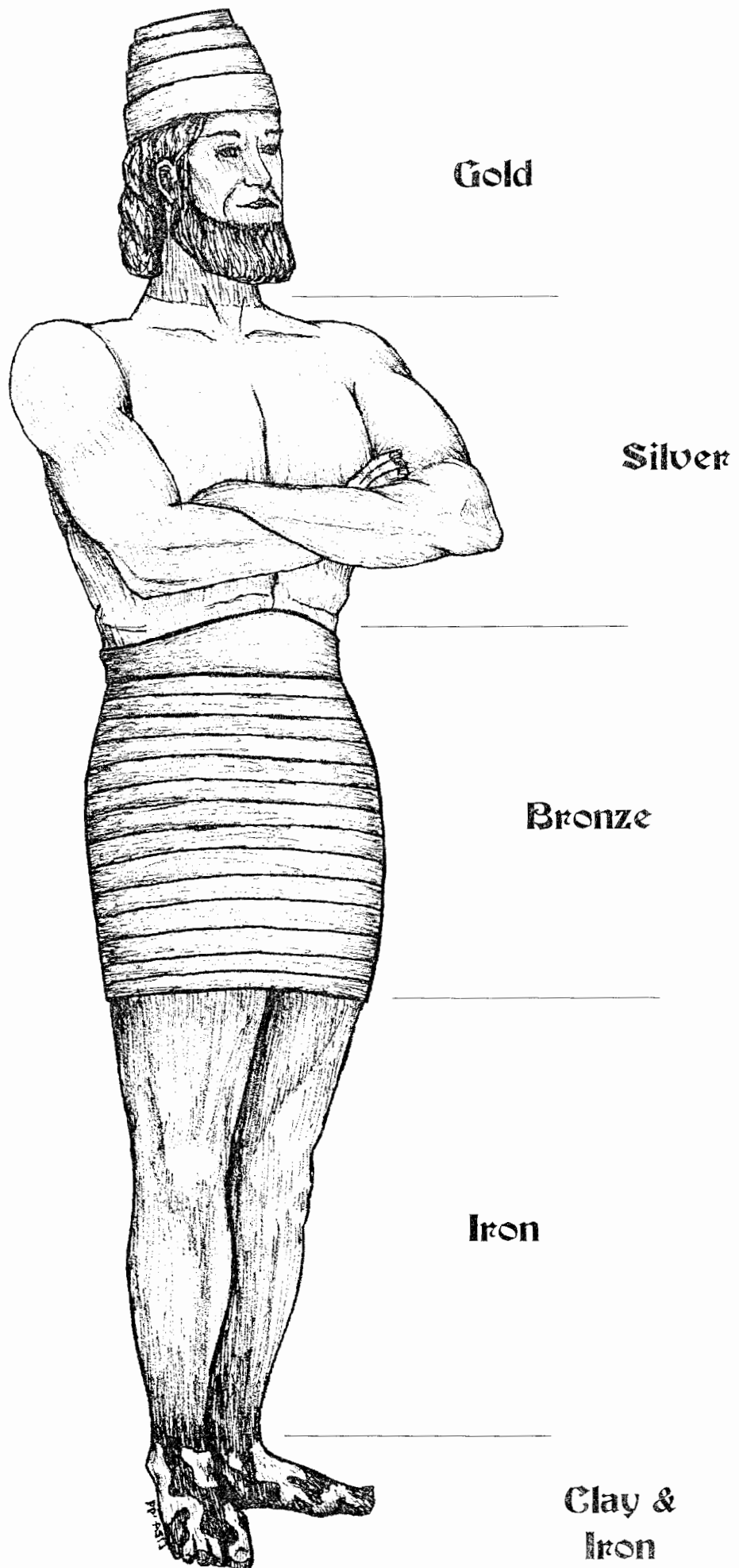
### Clay & Iron

The Holy Roman empire splits – 700-1054 A.D.

The Reformation (Luther et al.) – 1520 A.D.

CLAY: more earthy, the advance of human knowledge in humanism, self-attainment elevating man through science, technology and learning – ousting God. It is impossible to combine political power and authority with materialism in a stable mixture. It is unstable, prone to fragmentation, requiring a dictatorial rule. Represents weakness also. But the Lord takes weakness and refines it into ruling power (the rod of iron) into righteousness.

At the close of The Great Tribulation, the "Stone" will crush the whole image (Gold through Clay) into worthless chaff, which will utterly blow away.



**Daniel 7****Daniel 9****Lion**

Cyrus – 540 B.C.

**Bear**

Cyrus' proclamation – 536 B.C.  
New Temple dedication – 516 B.C.  
Artaxerxes letters to build walls etc. – 445 B.C.

**Leopard**

69 weeks equates to 483 years  
483 years of 360 days is 476 years of 365 days.

**Dreadful  
Beast**

476 years of 365 day years – 31 A.D. – Christ's preparation after 1 A.D.  
445 B.C. – the time of Artaxerxes' letters to rebuild.

(The 360 day-year because it was to bring the kingdom within man.)

483 of 365 day years – 38 A.D. – completion of 7 year offering – 445 B.C.

(The 365 day year because it was to bring the Kingdom to the nation.)

The strengthened Contract *specifically with the nation of Israel*, to be in force for 7 years. The offer of Christ Himself 31-35 A.D.,  
then Apostles to rulers – 35-38 A.D.  
Judah set aside – 38 A.D.  
Jerusalem destroyed and the Jews dispersed – 70 A.D.

Jesus born July, August 1 A.D.

31.5 A.D. September, October – anointing – 30 years old **Luke 3:23**

32 Passover **John 2:13** 30.58

35 Passover 33.58

38.5 October Stephan

**The  
Dreadful Beast  
in partnership  
with 10 rulers**

Spiritual Israel picks up the heritage or mantle of physical Israel and is no longer confined to the boundaries of Palestine.

Christ's personal ministry to His chosen people of physical Israel has already fulfilled the second 3 1/2 years of *personal* ministry to *spiritual* Israel through the Manifested Sons (He was the first such Son), during the 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation on a rebellious world.

## The Great Tribulation

**T**he period of the Great Tribulation, such as the world has never yet experienced and will never again experience (*Matt. 24:7-8,21*), is referenced in many portions of Scripture. It is pictured specifically and parabolically as a time brought about by man's wickedness. It is also a time in which God has ordained an impasse so that those He specially loves (those who love Him) will have the opportunity to see His mighty hand of deliverance. It is a time when multitudes will be ushered into the Valley of Decision so they might have the opportunity to know the living Christ and receive Life forevermore (*Joel 3:9-16*). It is a time for one fulfillment of the prophecy that every knee must bow to Jesus Christ and every tongue must agree to His full control (*Isa. 45:22-23, Phil. 2:9-11*). Heaven will be in awe and adoration, because that is one of the requirements for entering. Earth will do similarly, because the Kingdom is then in operation and almost none of different mind will remain there (*Acts 3:23*). Beneath the earth in the place of the dead, they behold His fearful power and dread the awaited judgment by Christ (*Rev. 5:13*).

Those few years which bridge the end of Church Age and the start of the Millennial Age are a time of the ending of the previous series of ages (*I Cor. 10:11* Literal). They will see the complete establishment of *all* that God spoke through His holy Prophets in all the previous ages (*Acts 3:20-21*), Old Testament and New Testament, including those things which will be the common possession of believers in the Millennial Kingdom of peace and righteousness (*Isa. 65:17-25*). There will be the re-fulfillment in our day of the gold, silver, brass and iron prophecy lumped into one rule. Those years will embrace the accomplishments of the past, the present, and those yet still future, making the remnant of the end of our age the only timeless people ever to come forth, a people knowing no distinction of dispensation and having no limitations of dispensation (*Jn. 14:12*). It will be a time of mighty works entrusted to the hands of prepared men, with signs and wonders and tremendous blessing through the power of the Holy Spirit (*Joel 2:17-32*). It will also be a time for the fulfillment of vengeance and the fulfillment of all things ever written by the Prophets against the rebellious and wicked people of the world (*Lk. 21:22*). Those years will bring a very great Light for the faithful, but in the same period, exceeding darkness for the rebellious, as the previous ages fade away and the overlap of the new age begins to be evident (*Isa. 35:4-7, 61:1-4, 63:3-6*).

In a search of other Scripture confirming what seems apparently to be the duration of this overlapping period common to both the old and the new age, the Great Tribulation (*Ezek. 5:9, Dan. 12:1, Joel 2:1-2, Matt. 24:21*), we find there are several other uses of a 3 1/2 unit period, associated with and resulting from sin/rebellion, which illustrate the Lord's pattern. Another such period of affliction that never was before or ever will be again, such as referenced in *Matthew 24:21*, is mentioned in *Exodus 9:18, 10:14*, also as a result of rebellion. Associated with the affliction at the time of the Exodus from Egypt (a type of the world order), was a three-day period of intense darkness, even

while the Chosen People received much light (*Ex. 10:22-23*).

In Bible application, the round number is typically used to represent a number and a portion. Because of sin, David was asked to choose 3 years of famine, or three months of devastation, or three days of the sword of the Lord and pestilence in the land (*I Chron. 21:11-12*). Because of rebellion, the people of Moab were exposed to a three-year period of trouble from which only a small remnant survived (*Isa. 16:14*). As a result of rebellion, a three-year warning period of judgment came upon Egypt, a type of the world, through the agency of Assyria, a type for the dominant world power at the end of the Church Age (*Isa. 20:3-4*).

Because of sin, the land of Ahab experienced three years of famine (*I Ki. 17:1, 18:1; Lk. 4:25*). As a result of blasphemy, two she-bears (a type of the two beasts of *Revelation 13:1, 11*) came out of the forest (*II Ki. 2:11-24*) and overcame 42 of the teenagers in the group (a type of the 42 months or 3 ½ years of *Revelation 13:5*). Because of rebellion, the Saul who became Paul experienced three days of darkness (*Acts 9:9*). At the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, there were about three hours of darkness over the whole land before the curtain veiling the Holy of Holies in the Temple was torn apart (*Lk. 23:44-45*). The Bible accounts referring to the Day of the Lord, or the Great Tribulation period, describe darkness, famine, devastation by enemies, pestilence, the appearance of the desolator and the oppression of the saints. But as it was in the Exodus picture (*Ex. 10:22-23*), it is also a period in which there is to be great spiritual light and protection available to those who are interested – a period in which God is an effective refuge (*Matt. 24:7-9, 12-15, 29-31; Lk. 21:11-19, 25-28; Isa. 24:1-6, 20-23, 25:6-9, 13:6-13; Joel 2:28-32, 3:9-16; Acts 1:17-21*).

From Bible prophecy we can expect a progressive increase in world troubles to the end of the age. There is however, a portion of this concluding period in which Scripture says the world systems of religion, commerce and government will be crumbled so thoroughly, that it will be a time of tribulation or pressure such as the world has never seen or will ever see again (*Rev. 16:18-19, 18:21-24*). The specific extent of the Great Tribulation is to be a period described as a time, and times (referring to two times), and a dividing of a time – as 3 ½ years (*Dan. 7:25, 12:7, Rev. 12:14*), as 42 months (*Rev. 11:2, 13:5*) and as 1260 days (*Rev. 11:3, 12:6*). The Great Tribulation will cover the whole earth and affect all nations (*Lk. 21:26, 35, Rev. 13:5-7*); it will be a time when *all* things written in Scripture will be fulfilled (*Lk. 21:22*). It is only *after* the saints have a complete victory over the enemy at the close of the Great Tribulation, that those who have cleansed their own garments (*Rev. 22:14*) and have themselves overcome in battle (*Rev. 3:21*) will be gathered to Jesus Christ (*Matt. 24:29-31*).

Man's interpretation which shows no Church participation in the Lord's battle with Satan during the Great Tribulation to completely dispossess him of his empire, is only encouraged by wishful thinking and a neglect of *personal* searching out the Word to see if these things are so (*Acts 17:11*). There is no Scriptural backing and no valid excuse to support the widespread and deceitful, seductive but comfortable teaching that all Christians, regardless of their response and diligence and maturity, which our Lord says He requires, will suddenly be lifted out of this world to recline with Jesus in the heavenlies, from there to watch the subsequent Great Tribulation engulf a world of humans whom God says He loves with a fervent love. There is no Scriptural support for a concept prevailing over much of Christendom, that all of the world will be suddenly deprived of

its Body of Christians and even the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving Satan and his hosts complete freedom of action with no opposition. This is completely contrary to the whole thrust of the Bible. God will ever continuously and effectively war against lawlessness, wherever it may be.

It is an essential part of God's plan of development for Christians to participate in and go through this period of great trouble such as the world has never yet experienced and never will again. This pattern of participation is pictured again and again in the Bible (**Rev. 7:13-14, 13:7-10**). Some say the multitude referred to in **Revelation 7:13-14** are the Jews. But such a Jewish multitude has no contract until it welcomes Him Who comes in the Name of the Lord. And that turning to the Lord is not possible, *if* the Holy Spirit is withdrawn during the Tribulation, as is taught by many (**Rev. 13:7-10**). The Chosen People remained *in the midst* of the plagues of Egypt (a type of the world) and the three days of darkness, but they had supernatural protection and light. The death angel passed through their land and among their houses, but passed over when he saw the blood application on the doorway.

Noah and his family remained in the midst of the judgment engulfing the world, but were protected in the Ark (a type of Jesus). Daniel's three friends experienced all of the flames of the furnace, but one like the Son of Man was there protecting them. Daniel experienced the immediate presence of the hungry lions (a type of the satanic host), but was not devoured. Jesus was not spared the 3 1/2 years of physical and emotional abuse, but He emerged victorious. David's nation experienced the three days of the sword of the Lord and of pestilence and emerged. The followers of God also personally knew the deprivations of the 3 1/2 years of no rain and food shortage in Ahab's land, including Elijah, but their needs were provided by God. Paul experienced the three days of darkness, but he stood fast and was delivered.

The overcoming of the world, the flesh and the devil, including death of the physical body, is not to be restricted to those saints who will move about in their glorified bodies. There is also the potential now for the saints to recognize, desire and, through qualifying, appropriate the victory over death in their present earthly temples, here in this age. Available now is the very Life of Christ, making it possible to enter into the heritage in the Spirit, to participate in the Melchizedek priesthood and to live a spotless, righteous life without blemish, much as the Son of God Himself did, through the virtue of His abiding presence within. The Bible says that God is bound by His word and His oath. He is not bound by dispensations, by general historical procedure, or by the opinions of men. True, it is mentioned in Hebrews that it is appointed unto men once to die, but even though death was quite general, Enoch was free to reach up and believe for his translation without experiencing death – and God could not deny him (**Heb. 11:5**). Neither did God prevent Elijah from being caught up in a whirlwind without seeing death when Elijah understood the potential and believed for it (**II Ki. 2:11**). Nor did God move against extending the life of the Apostle John for approximately 2,000 years, when John understood what God's plan makes available and believed for it; it was not Peter's business, nor was it contrary to God's Word (**Mk. 9:1, Jn. 21:19-23**).

Jesus promised He would raise up at the last day all who would believe into His "name" (appropriate His nature and plan of life) (**Jn. 6:40**), but that did not prevent Him from bringing Lazarus forth from death before the last day. And what of the daughter of Jairus (**Lk. 8:41-42, 49-56**), and the widow's son of Nain (**Lk. 7:12-15**). And what of



Dorcas (*Acts 9:36-41*) etc. . . . Anyone who will believe for it and qualify, anyone who will choose to respond to the Lord's revealing (faith comes with the action following the revealing) will not be denied the Divine impartation which will change the mortal body into an immortal and incorruptible body, either an earthly incorruptible body such as Jesus had, or a glorified celestial body such as Jesus has. If we have agreed with the Lord for a resurrection at the last day, are we going to have an evil eye if God in His mercy and love imparts the qualities of His own Life to some who qualify before the last day? This promise was first open to Israel in 31-38 A.D., and now, almost 2,000 years later, is being made clear again to spiritual Israel – to those who will qualify (*II Tim. 1:10*).

Jesus said, "***I AM the Resurrection and the Life***" and He was not just referring to an historic event in the distant future. The Resurrection and the Life is the living Lord Jesus Christ dwelling in the Temple of our being by His Spirit. Most say Jesus wept because of Lazarus' death. But the Bible instructs believers not to mourn over the dead (*Ezek. 24:16-17, Ps. 90:14, Jn. 14:28, Phil. 4:4, I Thess. 5:16*). Jesus wept because He yearned to inspire faith-response in Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus; but they, like most Christians today, insisted in believing about Him and about God instead of believing *into* Him (*Jn. 11:23-27,35; 6:50,58; 8:51*). Jesus wanted them to believe that He was the I AM (*Jn. 8:58*). They were willing to believe in an historic future resurrection and that Christ was the Messiah, as are we, but that believing is not sufficient to bring one into the fullness of "adoption" sonship and possession of our inheritance (*Rom. 8:13-17,23*). They confessed faith in the fact of resurrection for Lazarus in the last day, but Jesus replied, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes into Me, although he may die, yet he shall live." That was the case of Lazarus and those who will not yet believe all that the Prophet spoke. The Lord continued, "And *whoever* continues to live and believe *into* Me (as the I AM and the Resurrection and the Life) shall never (need to) die at all. Do you believe this?" (*Jn. 11:25-26*).

It is certain we do not believe it; perhaps some may believe it theoretically, but how very few have believed it experientially and demonstrated the sure result. Yet the promise is there, even though we choose to disbelieve it, for the Bible says that those who attain to full "adoption" sonship *will* be manifesting the Life of Jesus Christ in redeemed and incorruptible bodies at this time. The Word of Unveiling will grip the hearts of those who are willing and eager for *all* the Lord offers, and they shall prepare themselves and appropriate the Resurrection and the Life even now in this life-time. Should they not, Christ could never return to earth in victory, because God has said, "Sit here at My right hand, *until* I make your enemies your footstool," the footstool of your *feet* (*Ps. 110:1, I Cor. 15:25-26*). The last enemy is death. The feet upon which the whole Body will stand and gain support are those certain few in our generation.

The Bible repeatedly states that Jesus will remain where He now is at the right hand of His Father until *all* enemies are put under His feet (*Ps. 110:1, Matt. 22:44, Eph. 1:22-23, Acts 3:21*). In the Body of Christ, Jesus is the Head and the generation living at the time in which all these things take place is the feet (the same sequence of progression as seen in the *Daniel 2* image picture). How can we possibly conclude that Jesus will violate His demonstrated patterns of action and catch up an infantile, miserable, powerless, defeated, blinded, disease-ridden and adulterous, yet self-satisfied, presumptuous and arrogant Church to attempt a work in the heavens against an enemy with whom it has consistently been demonstrating an inability to cope? Jesus cannot move

from His position at the right hand of His Father to be joined with His prepared Body of Christ, until *all* enemies are under the feet of His Body – including that of death of the physical body (*I Cor. 15:51-55, Rom. 8:23, I Thess. 5:23*). At least two persistent overcomers must have arisen to be publicly recognized from within the true Church to conquer and become absolutely victorious over all the opposing forces of the world, the flesh and the devil (*Rom. 16:20*), before the present Church Age draws to a close – and in spite of the Church’s attitude.

The Lord’s purpose and objective for those of His Body of Christ is not that of their passively waiting for a God “who is all love” to unilaterally effect a transition from a world yet abundant with soul-satisfying, material things into a self-indulgent ease in a spiritual realm. The Bible just does not say that. The Bible does say that the earthly Body of Christians is to engage in battle (*Eph. 6:11-13*) with a vastly superior foe (from the human viewpoint) – and win (*Rom. 8:35-39*). The Bible says that it is this prepared and well-trained *portion* of the Body which is to *overcome* and completely dispossess the enemies of Jesus, ejecting the enemy beings from *all* of the Promised Land in which Satan and his hosts of followers have been unfaithful stewards (*Lk. 19:22-27*). The victors will then possess all of the realm now ruled by Satan so that God’s will can become fact on earth as it is in heaven – with no opposition remaining (*Heb. 1:13, 2:8*).

Satan and his hosts are on one side of the battle; and dedicated, willing and cooperating Christians are on the other side. Those whom the Lord will use to engage the enemy in the thick of the battle will be only the sufficiently matured and strengthened Christians (*Eph. 6:14-18*) who have undertaken the required purifying and training and who have been adequately tested and proven, for God will permit only those things in battle to come against any Christian which he is able to handle within his attained capabilities (*I Cor. 10:13*). Most Christians have not yet permitted the Lord to take them through the sequence of purifying, training, testing and proving, but the Lord can bring deliverance (victory) by many or by few (*I Sam. 14:6*). Those in the front lines of battle will need to have been trained to handle whatever Satan himself and his higher echelon demons can bring against the Body of Christians; there is to be no giving way, not any.

The initial field of intense battle is to be in that gaseous envelope surrounding the earth, out to about 4,500 miles. It is in that portion of his realm that Michael and his prepared and trained angels will first come against Satan and his hosts in all-out front line fighting. There they effect a complete victory in behalf of the saints and will eject all of the enemy hosts from that part of Satan’s empire. Michael and his agents, who have been specifically empowered and equipped for this phase of the battle, will cast down Satan and his angels from his heaven (*Eph. 2:2*) to the surface of the earth and its near atmosphere (*Rev. 12:7-9*). In order for prepared humans to participate in the earthly phase of the consummating battle against demon principalities and powers, a company of Christians who have made themselves ready is to be selected and given glorified physical bodies. They will then teach men to successfully face and conquer the enemy in man’s own realm on the earth (*Rev. 12:4-5*). Following the casting down, another company of Christians, the still earth-bound army of the Lord made up of prepared saints remaining on earth during the time of the battle, will take up the contest on the earth’s surface to wrest the remainder of Satan’s empire from his grasp.

The time of this warfare with Satan’s hosts on the surface of the earth is the period of Great Tribulation (*Rev. 12:14-17*), during which Satan attempts to incite men to destroy

the world and each other (*Matt. 24:22*). The scene is the surface of the earth and the action is in an environment of trouble such as the earth has never yet experienced and never will again. The destroyer, Satan, is then cast into the final and decisive battle which will determine who gets his empire or whether there will be anything left to possess. But the outcome is foreseen and is promised to be a complete and absolute victory by which Satan and all his agents, demon and human, are forced to relinquish the whole stewardship to Jesus Christ and His army and are totally denied even a small corner of what has been theirs. The strategy of our Lord is awesome. He will have two armies capable of victory in the power of His Spirit (not without), one in the outer realms surrounding this planet and the other on the surface of the planet itself; Jesus will not vacate His position of strength by the removal of His earthly army or His Holy Spirit from the battleground before the forces of the enemy are utterly destroyed and removed from off the face of the earth. Then and only then will His Kingdom of peace and righteousness begin to cover the whole earth, because there will be but few remaining on earth who will still refuse it.

When the saints on earth clearly have the victory, those who have prepared themselves to reign and rule with Christ (in the heavenly New Jerusalem), having run the race and *won* the crown (*I Cor. 9:24-25*), will be raised up at the end of the Great Tribulation during the final sounding of the seven Trumpets of *Revelation 8, 9 and 10 (I Cor. 15:52-55)*. In their glorified bodies they will be with Jesus Christ to share His authority and His rule in His heavenly Kingdom in the New Jerusalem situated in the heavenlies (*Rev. 2:26-27, 3:21*). The winners of the heavenly *prize* who have died will be raised first; then immediately the prize winners who are still alive will accompany them (*I Thess. 4:15-17*). Soon thereafter, Christ's ruling authority over the earth will begin to issue out of the heavenly New Jerusalem (*Rev. 21:10, 22:2*), which will have become visible in the sky. Then progressively the administration of Christ's rule over the nations will begin to issue from the earthly Jerusalem in Palestine (*Jer. 3:17*).

## Prophecy on the Ten Tribes

**D**aniel was given specific prophecy on the events and opportunities to be presented to the two southern tribes of Israel – Judah and Benjamin – (*Dan. 9:24*) and prophecy also was given him about the northern ten tribes among the nations, but not so specifically. The ten tribes had been deported and dispersed among the nations during the Assyrian occupation of Palestine, losing their distinctive identity and becoming known as the “lost” ten tribes of Israel. Although these ten tribes cannot be identified with any segment of the human race today, a remnant of each tribe has been preserved down through the years, known only to God. God commanded and He sifted the house of Israel (the ten tribes) among all the nations, like grain is sifted in a sieve, and yet not the least kernel shall fall upon the earth and be lost (*Amos 9:8-9*). The “sieve” has thoroughly mixed the ten tribes among the Gentiles and the members have not retained a separate and distinct identity; they are not known even to themselves. But because of the promise made to Abraham and his seed, God will yet gather a remnant of each of the tribes out of the nations and will place those remnants once again in the Promised Land. Since they are known only to God, it will take a special act of providence and revelation to separate and cause them to return to their father’s land (*Isa. 65:8-10*). The return will not take place, however, until the land has been purged and made ready (*Ezek. 39:12-25*), for the Lord Jesus Himself will first shake the land by touching His feet on the Mount of Olives (*Zech. 14:4-5*) and will take away the iniquity of the land by the fire of His presence (*II Thess. 1:6-9*).

It is also true that although the ten tribes cannot be identified with any modern nations or group of nations by lineal descent, yet there is a spiritual sense in which certain nations can be properly considered the “Israel of God” in harmony with the transfer of the Kingdom inheritance from the natural to the spiritual seed of Abraham. There is, according to pattern, a spiritual counterpart to the tribes of Israel in evidence among the *Christian* nations of today – for these counterparts would of necessity have to be ones with a Christian heritage and culture, even though greatly defiled.

Because of the special purpose God has for one of these “tribes” of end-time spiritual Israel, a prophetic relationship should be examined. It is written that Dan shall *judge* his people (Dan means ‘judge’) as one of the tribes of Israel and that Dan shall be a *serpent* by the way, an adder or horned snake in the path, that bites at the horse’s heels so that his rider shall fall backward (*Gen. 49:16-17*). It was the son of a woman of Dan, with an Egyptian father, that *blasphemed* the name of the Lord and had to be stoned after the children of Israel had departed out of the land of Egypt (*Lev. 24:10-16,23*). It was the tribe of Dan that marched *north* and took territory not assigned to it. And it was the children of Dan who *apostatized*, set up Micah’s graven image and took his Levite, who had turned to idols, as their tribal priest (*Jdg. 17:12-13, 18:1-31*). It was on the *north* that the standard of the tribe of Dan was erected when the Israelites camped in the wilderness (*Num. 2:25*).

And it is from the north that God has decreed judgment to come upon the tribes of both natural and spiritual Israel (*Jer. 4:6-9, Ezek. 38:14-16, Joel 2:20*). In the sealing of the tribes prophetically pictured in *Revelation 7:5-8*, the tribe of Dan is omitted, and *Revelation 13:1* pictures the beast out of the sea of human emotions as having the name of blasphemy upon its heads. This corresponds to the type mentioned in the *Leviticus 24:10-23* passage, where a man of Dan blasphemed the Name of the Lord. In its modern spiritual counterpart, the tribe of Dan is represented by a nation which is anti-God, has apostatized from Christianity and has taken upon its head the name of blasphemy. It must be a nation which has repudiated the Lord God and cursed the name of Jesus Christ, occupies territory in the north, and is capable of bringing judgment by military action against the other nations. Only one nation satisfies the conditions. That nation, which was the seat of the sea-beast of communism, which is positioned in the uttermost north, which is the serpent in the path (satanic control) and which will bring the other "tribes" or nations of Christendom under judgment of war, is Russia. It can be none other.

Russia is a portion of the extended Holy Roman Empire, through the Greek Orthodox Church. Russia apostatized and accumulated the strength to bring the judgment of war on all of Christendom. In the description of the descent of the forces of Gog upon end-time Israel, it is written that they fell upon the *mountains* of Israel (*Ezek. 39:2,4*). In Scripture, a mountain is symbolic of a kingdom or nation. Thus it is pictured symbolically and prophetically that the end-time Israel is more than one tiny nation in the land of Palestine. End-time Israel is also a group of mountains, Christian nations of *spiritual* Israel, which shall feel the wrath of the beast system under the leadership of Russia-Dan when the final staging of the end-time drama takes place.

Why do we say there is only one nation which can possibly fulfill the prophecy of the beast nation of the end of our age? Couldn't one of several other nations develop its power into world rule as the years roll by? Why couldn't one of the Popes be that anti-Christ? How do we know the USA will not become that dreadful and terrible beast? The answers are not too hard, if we use the whole of the Bible – and think.

From the words of Jesus, we know that all things must be fulfilled *before* the generation passes away which is alive at the time of Israel's budding into national existence again. It is now 50+ years since the budding in May, 1948-1949. It then has to follow that the beast power under consideration *must* already be almost strong enough to act out its prophetic role of world domination. Weaker nations just don't have the time to develop, even if they had the resources. It has to be a nation *now* almost strong enough and *now* with enough military reserves. It should be rather obvious to the thinking mind that the world power of this anti-Christ must be a well-organized and well-equipped military power. No ecclesiastic body could possibly fulfill the many prophecies which speak of raw military force such as the beast power will employ in *making* peoples captive. (Even though Russia, after the break with the Soviet Union, appears weakened and bereaved of her whelps (*Hos. 13:8*) she is still capable of launching nuclear war, and of quickly turning around from her present course. The Russian populace is restless and many long for the days of the former communist Soviet Empire.)

In the area of military resources alone, we could place only two nations of the world even in the potential position of being able to subdue the world. Russia is one and the other is the USA, which built Russia to where she is and will yet pay dearly for that

disobedience to God (*Ps. 120:2-6*). Both Russia and the USA individually control far more than enough weapons necessary to eliminate all life from the face of the earth. Both have the means to deliver these weapons on target. However, the USA does not now fulfill the other prophetic descriptions. Although the USA is not very serious about its stand in pure Christianity, there still seems little chance that the USA could change its people to directly repudiate God and Jesus Christ within only the few years remaining within this generation. More temporarily, the USA does not occupy a geographic position in the uttermost north from Palestine. Nor has the USA had its religious derivation directly from either side of the Holy Roman Empire. The USA has never had a State religion; its religious background is from many groups of different persuasion. With all the prophecies taken together, Russia is the only possible fulfillment of the dreadful beast which rises out of the sea of human lust for self-fulfillment.

Here again we see that God's Word cannot be confined to a single fulfillment or application. His Word is rich and many-sided, having many facets of truth, all conformed to the one basic pattern of truth which has been dramatized through the history and institutions of the seed of Abraham, and based on the immutable oath God made when declaring His purposes to Abraham. God will teach by His Spirit, so we need not listen to the carnal reasonings of those who have eaten the tare seed of the enemy (*Matt. 13:25*). This is the day in which God will bring all things to light, and in which no thing shall remain hidden (*Mk. 4:22*) – to those who are searching and asking and listening.

## The Filling up of Prophecy

**J**esus said that the man who really believes *into* Him will do the same works that Jesus did and will do even greater works than these, because Jesus has been glorified and has taken His position at the Throne of His Father (*Jn. 14:12*). What is the key to the greater works Jesus prophesied would happen? The Holy Spirit universalized the moving of Christ's ministry into a many-membered Body, but the unique manifestation of the Body of Christians will come forth in the end-time when, in a very special way, a portion of the Church is purified, united and raised up. This unique manifestation will be more than a restoration to the status of the early New Testament Church. The New Testament principles and practices will be restored as a part of the establishment of what God will do today, but the Lord will move even farther and the early New Testament Church will be far more than reproduced. All the things prophesied in the Old and New Testaments will also emerge.

This is the time for the establishment of all things spoken of by the mouth of all the holy Prophets since the fall of Adam. The Lord's moving today is more than a restoration; it is to be a revolution into everything from the Old and New Testaments to the present, even into the things of the age to come, bringing them into the present. Within a short time, some will walk in an establishment of the greater works of all that is past, present and that which is still future. A fully prepared and purified fractional part of the Body will be the only timeless people ever to come forth, a people that will know no distinction of dispensation and will have no limitations of dispensation. This is prophetic revelation far beyond what the organized churches are presenting. As we stand before the Lord, we will see the restrictions of the past, of the present and even any restrictions of the future age removed from that remnant which now demands God's full plan.

One of the most important keys coming forth to help the people is the learning *how* to become instruments of Deity. The learning will first of all have to engage human spirit control from the Holy Spirit, instead of soul or self-control. A common focus of the members of the Body of Christians upon any one thing that is presented to them as a Body, will do more than any ministry or combinations of ministries that have ever existed from the days of the *Book of Genesis* up to the present hour. We have not understood this enabling. There has to be a breaking through beyond the present limitations in our minds. We know we are on the verge of changes, because the minute we begin to open up to the potential, immediately satanic pressures come against us. The end-time sons of God will find that the restrictions on mere man will be removed from them, placing them on a plane of individual authority resembling that of Jesus Christ. God created man first to gain dominion over his inner world, and then over the outer world. Sometime after the fall of man (at the time of the flood), everything within him became limited and fogged and reduced to only a fraction of what he can have, but the end-time sons of God will be raised up into the fullness of God's plan.



Do you understand how man should control things? Have you heard of people who could control the growth of plants to a limited degree, who by their presence could cause plants to wither or to grow rapidly? Jacob was able to control the heredity in the makings of an entire flock of animals by the striped stakes he set before them (**Gen. 30:35-43**). Do you believe it is possible for one human being to control another animate being or to control inanimate objects by the power of his mind? The Prophet Elijah was able to control weather and the power of life and death; he could bring fire out of heaven to devour his adversaries, even as is prophesied for the two witnesses of **Revelation 11:4-6**. In measure, the Prophets moved in the control of the animate and the inanimate world; they had some dominion over the natural realm and they moved somewhat freely in the spiritual realm, yet all of that was limited. These enablings are only shadows of what man is to have when God places him in dominion over all the work of His hands, first in the inner "world" and then the outer.

What do you think will happen in the end-time when the limitations and restrictions are removed? Can you begin to understand now why you are under pressure and why all "hell" breaks loose against you when you become serious about this potential? It is because we are coming toward a breakthrough. In your Christian walk, many things are important, but the greatest thing with which you can be occupied in this hour is full dedication to God and then, with limitations removed, minister to people and bring to them the glorious message of the *full* Kingdom for here and now. This good news of Christ's Kingdom, with *all* of its force and power being substantiated, and with a clear testimony of its Lord and His exaltation, is to be preached in all the world for a witness. Before the Bowls of Wrath are poured out in judgment to cleanse the earth of its refuse, the world will receive one more witness – the most fantastic, supernatural, powerful, miraculous, judgment-sweeping ministry that the world has ever seen. And you may share in it, *if* you will take the initiative to qualify yourself.

This is the day for the "establishment," the "restitution," the "restoration." These are the three words used in various translations of **Acts 3:20-21**, which speak of the time, literally, of the revolution or turning from all that man has instituted to *all* things which God has spoken by the mouths of all His holy Prophets since the world began. The heavens must receive and retain or contain Jesus until the time for this establishment.

When you worship, do you just sing along or have you had so much personal experience in the Lord's blessing that you are really worshipping the majestic Lord Who is coming to be glorified in the believer, Who is to be exalted *in* the believer, Whose very Presence is to be admired in His saints (**II Thess. 1:10**)? When you read the Bible, do you read carefully and thoroughly for its patterns? It is the patterns which are to be replayed for this generation. If you are a casual reader or a speed reader of the Scriptures, you will be deceived, because you will read *about* Jesus and the Disciples, about Judas and the betrayal, about the persecutions and difficulties, about the One Who was despised and rejected by men and misunderstood – for though the world was made by Him, the world knew Him not. In this hour, Jesus is coming to be glorified, not betrayed – to be admired, not despised. Those who use the title of the Lord Jesus Christ with four letter words are coming to the hour in which they will be judged by even the presence of people who know how to walk with God. The Prophets spoke of the Lamb Who was to be the sacrifice, but He is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah Who came to be its King and now is soon coming to be Lord and King over all the earth (**Rev. 19:11-16**).



John wrote that we should walk as Jesus walked and become pure as He is pure (*I Jn. 2:3, 3:3*). We should really know what this walk is about. The veil has been over so many things while God was preparing us. Jesus said, ***"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled"*** (*Lk. 12:49*). In our generation it is soon to be, so don't be confused about what the Lord is coming to do among traditional and casual Christians. He is not coming to bless all the churches, to give a shot of adrenaline to the old corpse to make it dance again, to put patches on old clothing, or to glue up leaky water pots (*Jer. 2:13, 18:4*). He is coming to bring death and destruction to the old order of things and to bring about the birth of the new. The so-called charismatic renewal did not build many churches; it tore them apart. Pastors were separated from their congregations; congregations were decimated and split. What happens when God starts to move? Judgment begins at the house of the Lord (*I Pet. 4:17-18*). The presentation of *the* Faith taught by Yahweh-Jesus is not going to be acceptable and neither will it be pleasant to the rank and file church congregation or to its leaders.

The next step in this walk will be revolutionary as well as a blessing when we begin to invade "Babylon," especially the ecclesiastical, with guerilla tactics and leave it in a shambles. In *Revelation 18*, the people of the world weep when "Babylon" comes down. There is a weeping and wailing in their hearts as they see the glory and grandeur of "Babylon" destroyed (*Rev. 18:9-11*). They hate to see the collapse and destruction of the great religious, commercial and political fabric which has held so many of man's enterprises together. Don't think that this will trouble only a few churches, for God wants to bring an end to the old order. He will destroy it by His Word as His chosen stand and prophesy. By human reasoning this sounds fantastic, but your heart should leap within you for that new day soon to be.

The Spirit of God is yearning for that plane of prophecy (speaking forth His Word of truth) to rise up again, to become creative with His judgment, so that men shall speak and impart living words to transform and change people as they listen. That is the kind of Word the living Christ spoke to His Disciples, ***"Now you are clean, through the Word I have spoken to you"*** (*Jn. 15:3*). Attain to that purity; then see and continue to see yourself clean and purged, removed from every contamination of this age; you can and are expected to be, as it is prophesied (*Rom. 8:13*). This overcoming of the "flesh," the devil and the world, including physical death, is for the many-membered Body as Christ speaks to His people again. The ends of the earth will hear the songs of Zion, and the powers of hell will tremble.

We are to stop interpreting the *Book of Revelation* in the way that Satan has inspired men without revelation to interpret it (*II Pet. 1:18-21*). Much of it has been fulfilled and the traditional ways of interpreting it are more dead and false than the interpretations of the Scribes and Pharisees in the days when the Church came forth. The Apostles were anointed to see things in the Word that so upset the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Chief Priests that they were ready to kill them as heretics. They said the new insights were false doctrine – but they were not. We should read the Old Testament today in a way that makes the New Testament alive, and vice-versa. Today, the Jews and most Christians still are blinded when they read the Old Testament, because they never received the revelation to know it is about them (*Rev. 12:9*). Likewise, those who read the New Testament at this time, with no other interpretations than dispensational or traditional teaching of the church, are missing what God is doing (*Lk. 18:8*). The most

significant thing that has happened in the last 2,000 years is the present revolution to *the* Faith in the Body of Christians. You can't find it in any of the traditional interpretations of the Bible, because there has been no revelation of it in them. God is bringing us revelation and will bring us revelation. We are being called heretics, but the revelation will show us how to make the revolution happen and how to walk in its purity. The key of knowledge is again being offered to the Church and Wisdom is returning (*Hos. 4:6*). God is establishing His authority in people being born out of the *faithful* Church, and He will heal His people through them.

Why are so few being drawn to a rediscovery of Truth and toward a different Church concept, as it is actually patterned in Scripture? Because the Lord is enlightening their hearts. Why do few cling to this approach in the midst of conflict and battle and assault? Because the Lord has given a revelation of Himself, limited as it yet might be. Don't say, "I'm going to have a walk with God;" you *now* have a walk with God, but you need to make more of it, much more of it. You need to continuously overcome the spiritual adultery of this age that is gripping human spirits to destroy and bring down. You need to continuously overcome passivity in your mind and spirit, to apply that which God has provided to loose you and purge you within and without, until you are transformed into His purity by the renewing of your mind by His whole Word to parallel His. Only then will you know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, because your life will be dramatically changed. You have the *proof*. He places all that is necessary before you in the Law and the Testimony (*Isa. 8:20*). But it is your own initiative that puts it into action and fulfillment, through the Faith He then builds within (*Gal. 5:6, Jn. 14:21*).

In contemporary revelations the Lord is showing things that are going to come, and He is encouraging us to go ahead in spite of the absolute inadequacy and insufficiency of each one of us. None of this that God will do is to happen because of anything naturally in us. God is raising up the poor of the world to make them rich in *the* Faith and heirs of the Kingdom. The marvel of our time will be His grace poured out upon an unworthy and inadequate people. Was it because of Samson's biceps that he could pull up the gates and carry them to a hilltop ten miles away? No, for the Word says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. The greatest mystery among the Philistines was the source of his strength, for they could not find it in the man.

God will do signs and wonders, and the people that know their God through His whole Word shall be strong and do exploits (*Dan. 11:32*). The key is in knowing Him experientially and walking *with* Him (*Deut. 8:2-3*). It is in His grace, in His love and in His mercy, that He comes down upon us. When we cooperate, he will clothe and blanket us with Himself so that, if we have the desire, we will become bold as lions, fierce as tigers, walking in where angels fear to tread, doing the works of the Lord. What did they say about the early Disciples? That they were ignorant and unlearned men was the general consensus. And who was afraid of ignorant and unlearned men? They were! They tried to stone them and kill them to get rid of them, because they were turning the world upside down. They were the lever that God used on the whole world.

Father, we call our hearts to be dedicated to become that purified people You want us to be, not out of our own ability, but because we are going to draw from You, under Your grace, as we have never drawn before – to put on the righteousness of our God as we have never dared before. We are going to throw aside our submitting to evil, our

prior concepts of your Word, our hang-ups and our problems and inadequacies, and draw upon the unlimited provisioning of the All-sufficient One, the excellencies of Your power and authority. O Father, by the grace of God, this is not idle boasting. We know we are speaking the way it must be, by the path in which You have chosen for it to be fulfilled. By Your grace, we will now *rise up* to worship You with all of our being, with all our heart, mind and strength – to love You. Amen (*Ps. 101*).

